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RANGER DISTRICT

FEB 5 1985

RANGER \_\_\_\_\_  
RESOURCE 13  
TIMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
ENGINEER \_\_\_\_\_  
T SALES \_\_\_\_\_  
WILDLIFE \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRE \_\_\_\_\_  
REC. TEC. \_\_\_\_\_  
REC. MGR \_\_\_\_\_  
BWA \_\_\_\_\_  
BUL. BD \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

CHATTOOGA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donald W. Eng Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Forest Supervisor - Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_  
W. Pat Thomas Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Forest Supervisor - Chattahoochee & Oconee National Forests

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_  
George A. Olson Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Forest Supervisor - National Forests in North Carolina

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Forester Date \_\_\_\_\_

Management of the Chattooga River for white water boating opportunities and related activities by commercial and non-commercial uses is analyzed in the attached document. Based on this analysis and experience in similar projects, the proposed administrative action does not identify any significant affects on the human environment individually or cumulatively. It is therefore categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment.

The analysis did not identify any items that would cause unacceptable adverse impacts for floodplains or to cultural resources. The administrative action does not involve wetlands, threatened or endangered species.

The direction in this document supersedes the management plan for the Chattooga River approved in 1980 by the Regional Forester and the Development Plan as recorded in the Federal Register March 22, 1976.

EXHIBIT D

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## INTRODUCTION

Congress designated 57 miles of the Chattooga River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System on May 10, 1974. This plan provides detailed management direction for resources and people using the river under the guidance of the Forest Land Management Plan. The plan will be reviewed annually and revised as needed.

Floating began in the early 1960's with commercial rafting beginning in the early 1970's following production of a major boating movie on the river. Floating popularity grew very rapidly. As inexperienced and poorly equipped individuals encountered very difficult whitewater, numerous deaths occurred.

Graph 1

Commercial use on weekends and holidays cannot expand significantly due to limits imposed on trip numbers. However commercial use is expected to grow 5-10% per year as more weekday clients are carried.

(graph 2)

More out of season use is developing as private and commercial floaters acquire suitable equipment which enable them to better withstand cold water and air temperatures.  
(graph 3)

With the river corridor averaging 1/4 mile wide on either side of the river, numerous recreational activities occur within this zone. Primary activities are rafting, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and hiking. Secondary activities include innertubing (limited to Sections I & II), backpacking, hunting, viewing scenery and white water floating, photography, driving on open roads, horseback riding and nature study.

Facilities for using the river are essentially adequate for most use. Parking facilities with trails to the river exist at fourteen locations. Hiking trails traverse much of the corridor above Highway 76 providing access.

## I. ADMINISTRATION

### A. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

#### Description

Sixty-eight percent of the river is classified WILD, where travel will be by foot or boat only. Motor vehicle use will be for emergencies only - fire or search and rescue. Five percent of the river is classified SCENIC, composed of portions where bridges cross the river. These areas and the 27% of the river classified as RECREATION may be managed to accommodate visitors using motor vehicle access to the river.

Use patterns have stabilized on the river though use continues to rise. Floating is limited to the 26 mile portion below Highway 28 Bridge and the West Fork's lower 4 miles in Georgia. Sections of the river designated I-IV are open to boating with each section providing progressively more difficult white water than the preceeding. Fishermen tend to congregate at the major stocking points of Highway 28 Bridge, Burrell's Ford and Bull Pen.

Completion of the Chattooga hiking trail along the river resulted in increased hiking and dispersed camping within the corridor boundary, shifting use away from the Ellicott Rock Wilderness.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) provides a process to analyze and plan recreation resources to provide desired experience levels. ROS does not attempt to delineate the best experience, but determines what recreation the resource is presently providing and what potential for change from present exists, if any.

Land Management Plans for the three Forests list 2 ROS classes for land within the Chattooga River Corridor: Semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) and Roded Natural (RN). (See the LMP and ROS users guide for more detailed explanation).

This chart summarizes experience levels by several factors.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL	PEOPLE CONTACT	CONTROLS EVIDENT	ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION
SPNM	Low	Not evident	Not generally evident
RN	Medium	Evident but subdued	Modification can be discerned but natural environment dominates.

Most land within the Chattooga corridor falls within the semi-primitive experience. Numerous people may use the river at the same time, but bends and rapids prevent long sight distances and falling water mutes sounds. Numerous other rivers, ie. Ocoee, Chattahoochee, Nantahala, and French Broad, provide white water floating experiences, but are unable to provide a semi-primitive experience due to developments including highways and railroads paralleling the river.

#### Objectives

The Act establishing the Wild and Scenic River program states that "Each Component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said System without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration, primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its aesthetic, scenic, historic, archaeological, and scientific features. Management plans for any such component may establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development based on the special attributes of the area."

Only 3 other rivers were found in an analysis of 48 rivers within a 250 mile radius of the Chattooga that provide quality white water rafting in a natural setting where a governmental agency could protect the scenic and isolation qualities. Since 99% of the main river's shore line in Georgia and South Carolina is federally owned, the Chattooga may be the only stream in the South where these experiences may be retained, as developments change other rivers.

Management will provide a range of recreation opportunities characteristic of, and in harmony with, the nature of the individual river segments. This can be related to Limits Of Acceptable Change (LAC) or the amount of human caused change to biophysical or social components tolerable without the loss of river environment character. This is measured by indicators -various selected items serving as a sign or symptom signifying any characteristic change in the river environment. For the Chattooga managers will seek to:

Manage Wild sections to (1) preserve the river and its immediate environment in a natural, wild, and primitive condition essentially unaltered by man's effects, and (2) provide water-oriented recreation opportunities in a primitive setting.

Manage Scenic sections to (1) maintain and enhance the high-quality scenery, (2) provide river-oriented recreation, and (3) utilize other resources and permit other activities which maintain or enhance the quality of the wildlife habitat, river fishery, scenic attraction, or recreational values.

Manage Recreation sections to provide compatible outdoor recreational opportunities and water-oriented recreational facilities.

## B. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

### Forest Supervisors

The Forest Supervisor, Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests, is responsible for administering public use and special use permits involving use of the main river or banks between Georgia and South Carolina. The Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, is responsible for West Fork administration. The Forest Supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina, is responsible for the river in North Carolina. Forests will meet annually to evaluate progress and discuss needs.

### District Rangers

The Andrew Pickens District Ranger is responsible for:

1. Enforcing the Code of Federal Regulations, Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders at all major access points and on National Forest land immediately adjacent to the main Chattooga River in both Georgia and South Carolina, where the primary access is from the river. Major access points are:

Earl's Ford (S.C.)  
Thrift's Ferry  
Burrell's Ford  
Highway 28

Fall Creek  
Sandy Ford (S.C.)  
Highway 76  
Woodall Shoals

2. Cleanup and maintenance at developed and undeveloped sites in South Carolina and at major access points and areas adjacent to the Chattooga River in Georgia where primary access is by boat.
3. Developing use figures and administering river registration system.
4. Administering "River Ranger" program.
5. Administering floating use.
6. Administering motion picture special use permits on main river and West Fork when in conjunction with filming on main river.
7. Monitoring bacterial water quality in the main river between Georgia and South Carolina.

The Tallulah District Ranger is responsible for:

1. Enforcing the Code of Federal Regulations, Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders along the West Fork, and assisting on the main river.
2. Cleanup and maintenance along the West Fork.
3. Administering motion picture permits on West Fork not in conjunction with the main river.
4. Providing regulation enforcement, cleanup and maintenance, on National Forest lands within Georgia that are not major floating access points or where principal access is by land.

The Highlands District Ranger is responsible for:

1. Enforcing the Code of Federal Regulations, Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders within the Nantahala National Forest.
2. Providing all administration including cleanup and maintenance of developed and undeveloped sites in the Nantahala National Forest.  
(See comment #4 above.)

#### Other

County sheriffs have responsibility for search and rescue. Initial Forest Service coordination will be by the respective District Ranger. For more details concerning search and rescue, see page \_\_\_\_.



## C. PERSONNEL

Chattooga River administration requires special personnel known as "River Rangers." Working under direction of the District Ranger.

### Duties

River Rangers will provide information on river and hazard conditions, existing prohibitions and orders, and safety recommendations. They should be qualified to enforce regulations. They will float parts of the river for inspections and cleanup, and will be prepared to render first aid. River Rangers will be briefed on procedures, but will not be expected to be equipped or proficient. They will collect data, maintain registration boxes, code, and submit forms for entry into the computer. River Rangers will lead search and rescue efforts until relieved by Rescue Squads or Forest Service personnel.

### Qualifications and Training

River Rangers must be in good physical condition, be good swimmers, and have standard Red Cross first-aid cards. Ability to float Class III rapids is desirable, but skilled candidates may be difficult to find and may require training. Selection should favor personable applicants who can skillfully meet and talk with people and portray the "Good Host" image. A minimum of 16 hours of Forest Service law enforcement training will be required for employees with citation writing authority each year, even though they may be repeat employees. They will need to receive general information about the Chattahoochee, Nantahala, and Sumter National Forests through the District orientation period.

### Manning

During the main use season (about May 15 - September 10), River Rangers will use roving patrols on the river and visitation during peak launching times at Earl's Ford and Highway 76 Bridge to inform floaters of the regulations. Patrols will collect information on commercial trips under special use permit and information to prevent rogue outfitters. Administration in North Carolina and Georgia will not require special personnel or scheduled manning. District personnel will do needed administration in connection with other duties.

## II. POLICY

### A. REGULATIONS

A number of regulations are in effect on the river. These regulations are shown in Appendix ----. Floating north of Highway 28 Bridge is prohibited through a condition of the floater permit under 36 CFR 261.77 (c).

## B. CARRYING CAPACITY

Carrying capacity is the ability of a resource to absorb use and can be expressed in several ways:

1. Environmental carrying capacity is the amount and type of use permitted before unacceptable resource damage occurs, ie. soil compaction, water pollution.
2. Physical carrying capacity is the ability or limitation of the resource to physically meet the demand, ie. a 90 car parking lot cannot hold 100 cars.
3. Social carrying capacity is the amount of use leading to the point where a certain percentage of visitors feel the quality recreation experience declines. When overcrowding is perceived a visitor may feel less satisfied with the experience but continue, or may stop or move to some less crowded time, or location.

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) offers one method to determine and measure if these carrying capacities are being exceeded. Measurable objectives can be established and monitoring methods defined to determine the amount of change permitted before limits must be imposed on use or management actions, like hardening the site, undertaken.

### Environmental Carrying Capacity

The Chattooga's visual environment has not been affected by increased floating use. Vegetation, soil, rock, gravel and sand constituting the shoreline reflect no significant damage from floating use. Water quality monitoring shows continued improvement. Coliform bacterial counts have declined to levels found in most mountain streams with the exception of water entering via Stekoa Creek, or following storms.

Water quality monitoring will continue at intervals frequent enough to detect pollution sources to assure water meets appropriate State and Federal Environmental standards.

It is possible that human waste deposits at heavily used camping or lunch stops may create a problem. LAC will be established in 1985 and visual checks will monitor the situation. Should limits be exceeded, outfitters (7% of river use) will be required to provide approved portable depositories at problem sites and remove waste from the river corridor.

### Physical Carrying Capacity

Physical carrying capacity can be measured by the number of boats capable of floating down the river in a given time frame (bumper to bumper). Since Congress specified the river to be managed for isolation and seclusion this capacity measurement is inappropriate. The physical capacity of support facilities (parking lots) is considered appropriate to the number of visitors to the river and maintain a semblance of seclusion in Wild sections. No expansion of support facilities other than at Tugaloo Lake is planned. This is not expected to increase physical carrying capacity. Use will be discouraged when facilities are full.

Parking capacity is exceeded only at the Highway 76 parking lot on major holidays when the large 90 car lot and the small Georgia lot are full and numerous cars are parked along the highway. This creates a major safety hazard for pedestrians. Part of this congestion is caused by non-boaters who congregate at Bull Sluice, often spending 2-4 hours. (LAC - in a monitoring plan or appendix for whole river similar to LMP monitoring plan.)

To keep LAC within the established capacity, permits for irregular commercial and private groups such as paddling clubs, institutions and youth camps will be limited on holidays.

#### Social Carrying Capacity

This is the most difficult and nebulous capacity to set since recreationists have widely divergent perceptions of crowding. This plan will only address experience levels for floaters since fishing, hunting, swimming, horseback riding and hiking is not concentrated in a manner similar to floating and do not appear to be high enough to be considered

LAC limits will utilize data derived from previous studies to determine perceptions of visitors towards crowding, problems, reasons for using the Chattooga and attitudes about management options. Other studies, analysed floating densities and developed management objectives based on visitor opinions were used to formulate a criterion.

Those studies revealed that "95% of groups launching on a given day should not pass or be passed by more than 40 people in more than 3 groups occupying not more than 15 craft except on Memorial Day, Labor Day and July 4th weekends."

Floating is greatest on weekends, with peaks at 4th of July, Memorial Day and Labor Day. Private floating on a typical weekday is only 1/4 to 1/3 that of the weekend day. Commercially guided float trip outfitters may be permitted to conduct more trips during weekdays than on weekends to take advantage of the unused capacity. Thus Management Direction encourages commercial use on weekdays and restricts weekend use.

#### Use/Limits

To maintain knowledge, the Forest Service should use National River Research Questionnaire about every five years to detect changes in user preferences.

Present limits on special use permittees will be continued. These were developed over the last 8 years, and appear to be within the desired range since use is no longer growing as rapidly as during the early 1970's. It is much easier to regulate the few commercial companies staffed by experienced managers who handle over 2/3's of the use, than the thousands of private individuals.

The following guidelines will be followed unless monitoring shows that they should be changed (either up or down).

1. No limitation on private floaters will be imposed. Because of the numerous launch points, this would be difficult to administer and a burden on users. Information will be developed to encourage
2. No more than three regular tour companies (rubber raft) will be permitted.
3. No more than five training clinic companies (canoe and kayak) will be permitted to operate under five-year permits.
4. A single shuttle service will be permitted to carry boaters and craft either owned by the user or rented
5. The District Ranger will approve operating plans for commercial trips, limiting launch times and locations, and timing between trips for various water levels to minimize conflict with other users.
6. All floaters must register and follow prescribed safety equipment regulations.

## PERMITS

Special use permits provide a means for offering recreation opportunities that many private individuals could not otherwise enjoy. The difficulty of whitewater, expensive equipment, and high skill level required indicate that highly competent rafting and instructional clinics and guides are needed to accomodate a portion of the Chattooga's floaters.

### Commercial

Commercial use on the Chattooga is regulated through special use permits authorizing scheduled raft trips, canoe/kayak training clinics, shuttle service for boats and people, and incidental trips on an infrequent basis. All commercial uses require a special use permit, including activities where the permittee or any of his employees make a profit, receive a reimbursement of salary, receive rental for animals or equipment, increase the value of his facilities, equipment, animals, etc., or support in any part, other programs or activities from amounts received from customers. This includes guiding or transporting persons and providing equipment, supplies, or materials. Special use permits may be issued when the use does not conflict with river management objectives, is in accord with approved resource plans, provides a needed public service, and assists in the management and utilization of National Forest resources.

An operation is not commercial if there is a bona fide sharing of expenses and no fee, charge, or other compensation is collected from individual Participants in excess of expenses incurred. Nonprofit status under Internal Revenue Service or Postal regulations does not determine whether a trip arranged by an organization is non-commercial. The Forest Service is not obligated to issue a permit or accommodate a desire of an individual applicant. Both temporary or transient land occupancy and annual renewable special use permits may be granted. Special use permit issuance will not establish nor set up a system of area allocation or permanence of operation which might deny use by others. The following items apply to special use permits:

6. Permittees will provide an annual operating plan which shows their operational details.
7. Public safety is a major concern of the Forest Service. The permit places a responsibility on the permittee to see that "his employees and patrons operate boats and vehicles in a safe and reasonable manner." Failure to comply with permit requirements may be grounds for revoking the permit.
8. The permittee must comply with State and Federal laws and regulations relating to use of the National Forest lands and waters and assume full responsibility for employees' and clients' conduct.
9. All permittees will be required to carry liability insurance "where public liability might exist."
10. Permittees shall carry out all of their litter and garbage.
11. No organized races will be allowed on the river.
1. The river's carrying capacity indicates that no more than three commercially guided float trip operations be permitted to operate on a daily basis. Three float outfitters have been granted special use permits.
2. The carrying capacity of the river indicates that there will be no more than 5 regular commercial training clinics (canoe & kayak). These are for the training of individuals in specific white water skills, primarily on short river segments and are not intended as guided float trips.
3. The nature of the river indicates that a single commercial shuttle service can adequately handle the limited number of private floaters requiring shuttle service that can be permitted to use the river.
4. The Andrew Pickens District has authority to issue temporary or transient land occupancy special use permits with standard clauses specifying the limited areas and time periods.
5. Outfitters must Complete and submit the Chattooga River registration forms.

### Non commercial

Free permits may be issued to organized groups when space exists. Groups may be considered organized which generally include all or part of, but not limited to the following;

- Have a charter or is a branch of a chartered organization.
- Have written by-laws/guidelines etc.
- Have established membership lists.
- Have elected officers.
- Are not necessarily limited by numbers of people.
- Are bonded together by common interest.

Forest Service policy requires organized groups on rivers with considerable use to secure permits in order to avoid crowding. Organized groups must notify the Ranger's office in advance of their trip by submitting a brief operating plan showing date, time of arrival and departure, section, number and type craft expected. The District Ranger will evaluate the river's ability to carry the trip without adversely impacting other users. The trip may be approved or denied, or approved with modification (time or location) to reduce conflicts. Organized group use without an approved permit is in violation. Each organized group must also complete and submit a Chattooga River registration form at the time of launch.

### Individual Permits

Self registration stations at West Fork, Highway 28, Earls Ford, Highway 76 and Woodall Shoals provide forms needed before parties can legally run the Chattooga. Signing this form commits the group to follow Forest Service regulations and the form serves as the input document for computer analysis of floating trends.

### Research

Studies to evaluate user perceptions and desires should be encouraged when they can be conducted without detracting from the recreation experience. The Forest Service will cooperate with academic institutions where potential exists to obtain information needed for river management.

Research needs include:

2. Software programs to enable running the computer simulation model on Forest Service computers.
3. An Economic Analysis study to determine the Chattooga's contribution to the local economy.



## MONITORING

A computer simulation model is being refined with capacity to predict contacts (passing or being passed by) between groups based on information from the daily user permit form. The model format is being evaluated for compatability with the Forest Service Data General System. If compatable, this would allow updating printouts and evaluation with visual observations derived while floating the river. This would permit frequent monitoring to insure the social management objective is being met.

If this this model is compatable, monitoring every other year will evaluate use. Should contacts exceed management objectives, use limitations may be imposed to protect the experience and provide the desired isolation-seclusion type experience.

The existing water monitoring plan will be evaluated during 1985 to determine if intensity is in line with needs and funding.

## CAMPING

Dispersed camping is compatable with goals of the National Wild and Scenic River System. This use will continue to increase as hiking and over-night boating become more popular. The camping policy follows:

1. The only "devaloped" camping area providing tables will be at Burrell's Ford Campground. This area is closed to vehicular access and is reached by a 350 yard foot trail. (See joint Supervisors' Order of May 15, 1977, Appendix ----.)
2. The only "primitive" camping areas open to vehicular access are Long Bottom Ford on the main river and West Fork in Georgia on the West Fork. Facilities will be limited to trash collection and toilets
3. Numerous designated camping areas along the river are marked with small signs. Visitors traveling by foot or boat may elect to camp in a designated site or may select an undesignated site located more than 1/4 mile from a road, 50 feet from the river or a tributary stream, or 50 feet from a hiking or horse trail. Individuals desiring to camp at sites not meeting these criteria must apply for a free permit from the Ranger's office. This will be granted unless problems are forseen.
4. Vehicle control barriers are needed at Long Bottom Ford to create small (3-6 car ) parking areas adjacent to camping areas along the county road leading to private land in this Recreation section. This will reduce soil compaction and damage to vegetation in an effort to protect the camping area.
5. Permanent toilets will not be constructed within Wild sections of the River corridor. If monitoring determines significant health or visual problems develop at outfitter and clinic overnight campsites outfitters will be required to provide containers and remove their waste to an approved disposal.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

Local sheriffs' departments and rescue squads have basic responsibility for search and rescue. District personnel will maintain close contact with these organizations and cooperate in search and rescue efforts.

Employees, upon being notified of lost or injured persons or accidents, will contact the appropriate sheriff's department, rescue squad and District Ranger's Office. The River Ranger will lead search and rescue efforts until the sheriff's department or rescue squad arrives, or until relieved by other Forest Service personnel.

Outfitters and experienced private boaters provide valuable assistance in rescue operations. This quick assistance prevents numerous tragedies as several hours is usually needed to get word to a rescue squad and allow them to reach the remote location.

A Forest representative will accompany search and rescue parties when directed by District Ranger. Over the years, the Rescue Squads have developed a policy to search only during daylight hours unless there is a known injury, or the missing individual(s) is under 16 years of age or elderly or severe weather is anticipated. Normally, the full scale search will start the following day, as most individuals manage to find the way out by this time. For other emergency Operations, see FSM 1590.

## SAFETY

The Chattooga has very dangerous white water for inexperienced or poorly equipped floaters. Numerous fatalities occurred during the early 1970's before safety programs were implemented. The Regional Forester prescribed equipment needed to float certain sections and this is made a condition of floating when trip leaders complete a self-registration slip before starting their trip.

Self-registration facilities are at S.C. Hwy. 28, Earl's Ford, U.S. Highway 76, Woodall Shoals, and Overflow Bridge. Persons launching at other locations must use one of these registration facilities. See Appendix for form used.

Forest Service employees and volunteers will observe all required safety conditions of use in their day-to-day administration of the river.

The Andrew Pickens District will complete form \_\_\_\_\_ for all serious injuries reported on the main river in Georgia and South Carolina. The Highlands Ranger and the Tallulah Ranger will be responsible for reports in North Carolina and on the West Fork, respectively. The report will include name of person killed, injured, or lost (if possible); residence; age; when killed, injured, or lost; witnesses (if any); type of equipment (if applicable); time and date of incident; violation of regulations (if any); and a short narrative of incident.

Safety regulations have been formulated and are listed in Appendix \_\_\_\_.

## INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

The Chattooga River Information Service program will give the public--

--a general idea of the Wild and Scenic River System purpose, management, and protection.

--recreational information on and near the river.

--understanding for personal safety, equipment needs, regulations and availability of commercial services, proper care of the river's unique environment and the "No Trace Ethic".

--information on scenic, geologic, and historical features of the area.

These messages are contained on a map showing river floating, trail system, access points, and primitive campsites.

### 1. Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards provide information at the following major access points: Bull Pen, Burrell's Ford, S.C. Highway 28 lot in Georgia, Highway 28 access area in S.C., Earl's Ford, U.S. Highway 76, and Woodall Shoals, and provide as a minimum, the regulations and recommended safety precautions.

An information site at the Highway 76 parking area provides exhibits and toilets. Information pannels cover: Wild and Scenic River rules and regulations, safety recommendations, location of other recreation opportunities in the surrounding area, and general information about the National Forests in N.C., S.C., and Georgia. A large scale 4-color map printed on waterproof plastic covers most of the questions visitors have. A River Ranger is on duty at HW 76 during high use periods providing opportunity for the public to find out additional information.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers offer opportunities to extend services to the public that would be unavailable due to shortage of funds. Efforts will continue to involve individuals, organizations and outfitters in activities like trail maintenance clean up, maintenance and information dissemination. Volunteers can assist in disseminating and encouraging low impact use practices and provide a "Good Host" image.

## INTERPRETATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

These non-profit associations offer a partnership relationship between Forest Service and interested citizens. An Association operates under direction of a Board of Directors that makes proposals to the Forest Service for approval. Profits from sale of approved items (publications, craft items, patches etc.) are used to fund National Forest activities. Forest Service buildings and employees may be used to make sales.

The Andrew Pickens Ranger District will investigate feasibility of an association to further River and District programs and submit a report to the Forest Supervisors.

## COOPERATION

Numerous organizations and agencies cooperate with the Forest Service concerning the River and adjacent lands. The situation is running smoothly and problems are not foreseen.

These include:

- County Councils in SC GA . and NC
- Game and Fish commissions in SC, GA. and NC
- Sherrif's Departments in SC, GA. and NC
- State Highway Departments in S.C. and GA.
- Office of Emergency Preparedness (Rescue Squad) in SC, GA. and NC
- Depts of Health and Environmental Control in SC, GA. and NC
- Georgia Power Company with Lake Tugaloo

## ACQUISITION

Acquiring fee simple title to all lands within the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River boundary is in the public interest. Condemnation of land is prohibited by the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

Land acquisition programs have been very successful in obtaining river frontage from willing sellers or through exchange. Acquisition of frontage on the main river in Georgia is complete, and only a few hundred feet remain in South Carolina. Several miles of private frontage remain in both North Carolina and on the West Fork in Georgia. Structures on acquired lands will continue to be removed and natural conditions restored. Continue to acquire in fee, lands identified in the Acquisition Plan on a willing seller bases. Acquire rights or ownership to a take out point on Lake Tugaloo.

Scenic easements will be considered only when extensive negotiations indicate that acquisition to prevent impairment of the scenic quality or basic resource by fee simple title is impossible. Easements may have to be acquired through condemnation proceedings.

#### VISITOR PROTECTION

Numerous private vehicles have been broken into or vandalized while parked at access areas. Enforcing laws to protect visitors on National Forest land is the sheriff department's responsibility.

Forest Service personnel will encourage sheriffs to take an active role in visitor protection. Additional or expanded Co-op Law Enforcement Programs will be investigated. Forest Service patrols will check for illegal activities and provide information to sheriffs and assistance to public who are victimized. Messages to alert visitors to safeguard their possessions will be included on bulletin boards and in publications.

#### MAINTENANCE AND CLEANUP

Mechanized equipment will be permitted for Forest Service programs such as trail maintenance equipment and recreation administration where equipment use will not seriously interfere with recreation experiences. Use will be scheduled to minimize conflicts by selecting low use dates or time of day.

Vehicular access points have solid waste disposal containers and regularly scheduled pickups. Access points are cleaned as listed on the following page. Cleanup during off-season will be as needed.

A "pack it in -pack it out" policy will be encouraged for all use inside the corridor. Outfitters assist in keeping the river clean, and Forest Service crews check areas accessible by foot and float inaccessible areas along the river to keep areas clean.

**CLEANUP SCHEDULE  
SEASON  
May 15 - Sept. 15**

Area	Responsibility			Once Per Week	Twice Per Use Season
	GA	SC	NC		
Bull Pen			X	X	
Ellicott Rock		X			X
Burrell's Ford Area		X		X	
Nicholson Fields		X			X
Hwy. 28 Bridge & Vicinity		X		X	
West Fork					
Three Forks	X				X
Overflow Bridge	X			X	
Warwoman Bridge	X			X	
Remainder of W. Fork	X			X	
Ridley Field Parking Lot		X		X	
Hwy. 28 Parking Lot		X		X	
Long Bottom Ford		X		X	
Earl's Ford (SC side)		X		X	
Earl's Ford (GA side)	X				X
Dick's Creek Falls		X			X
Sandy Ford (GA)	X				X
Sandy Ford (SC)		X			X
Lick Fork		X			X
Fall Creek		X			X
Thrift's Ferry		X			X
Rwy. 76, Bull Sluice and Bridge		X		X	
Sutton Hole		X			X
Woodall Shoals		X		X	
Raven Rock & Mouth of					
Long Creek		X			X
Camp Creek		X			X
All other primitive camp sites accessible by boat		X			X

## TRAILS

Hiking trails along and near the Chattooga W/S River and the Ellicott Rock Wilderness provide a very popular system for backpackers and day users. This inventory lists trails beginning at the headwaters and progressing downstream. Guidelines for trail management and maintenance are found in "Trails South" booklet.

Trails are located away from the river along much of the distance to reduce encounters with floaters, hikers and fishermen in an effort to provide more solitude.

Trails will not be developed on both sides of the river along any portion of the river to minimize the impact of hikers on the river.

### Existing

Chattooga Loop Trail (NC) -A 1/2 mile loop beginning at the Chattooga parking lot and ending at the Bull Pen Bridge.

Chattooga Trail (NC) -Beginning at Bull Pen Bridge, extends 1.0 miles northward along the river's west bank. An additional 2 miles remain to be built.

Ellicott Rock Trail (NC) -Begins at the Bull Pen Road and runs 3.5 miles to a ford 50 yards above Ellicott Rock and extends 3.5 miles back to Road 441 near Scotsman's Creek .

Chattooga Trail (SC, GA) -Begins at North Carolina/South Carolina line and runs 17.3 miles downstream to the Highway 28 Bridge, crosses the Chattooga and runs another 20.0 miles to the Highway 76 Bridge. Portions of the Bartram and Foothills Trails also follow the Chattooga Trail. The trail is complete except for a foot bridge across the West Fork in Georgia.

The East Fork Trail (SC) -Begins at the Chattooga Picnic Area and descends 2.5 miles to the river. This trail receives very heavy use, especially the first 1/4 mile before a bridge carries part of the traffic back to the picnic area.

The Burrell's Ford Fisherman Trail (SC) -The 1 1/2 mile portion of the Foothills Trail lying along the river in use before the campground was constructed. Trail not shown on maps or signed in an effort to route hikers on the Chattooga trail away from the river at this point to reduce congestion.

Spoonauger Trail (SC) - Beginning at Chattooga River Trail and extending 1/4 mile to Spoonauger Falls.

King Creek Trail (SC) - Beginning at Burrell's Ford campground and extending 1/2 mile to King Creek Falls.



Foothills National Recreation Trail (SC) -Enters river corridor at Licklog and extends 8.7 miles to Medlin Ridge where it leaves the corridor and heads to Highway 107.

Bartram National Recreation Trail (GA) -Enters river corridor at Dick's Creek and extends 10 mi. to Highway 28.

Earl's Ford (SC) - Portage (SC) - Beginning at the parking lot and extending 450 yards to river.

The Sandy Ford Portage Trail (SC) -Extends from the Sandy Ford road 500 yards to the river.

The Fall Creek Portage Trail (SC) -A newly completed trail extending from Road 769 about 900 yards to the river.

Dick's Creek Trail (GA) -Extends from Road #9 about 0.5 miles to the river.

LickLog Trail (GA) -Extends from the Bartram Trail 0.1 mile to Dick's Creek Falls.

The Tilly Branch or Thrift Ferry Trail (SC) -Extends from the end of Road 795 about 500 yards to the river.

The Highway 76 Portage Trail (SC) -An asphalt trail beginning at the Highway 76 parking lot and extending 200 yards to the river for boater access. An unpaved spur leads to Bull Sluice rapid.

Sutton Hole Trail (GA) -Extends from Road #290-A about 0.3 miles to the river.

Woodall Shoals Portage (SC) -Beginning at Woodall Shoals parking lot and extending 330 yards to river.

Camp Creek Trail (GA) -Extends from Road #511 about 0.4 miles to the river.

Raven Rock Trail (GA) -Extends from Road 511B about 0.8 miles to the river.

Opossum Creek Trail -Begins at Road 755 and descends for 1.5 miles to the river. This is the only non standard trail, the result of early logging skid trails and roads. Portions are eroding heavily. Erosion control is needed, but measures to increase use such as signing or including on maps should be resisted to avoid enticing spectators into the 5-falls area.

Three Forks Trail (GA) -Begins at Teague Gap on the Overflow Road and runs 2 miles to the Three Forks Area of the West Fork.

#### FUTURE

Horse Trail (SC&GA) -Over the last 10-15 years horse owners have developed an unofficial network of trails, apparently without Forest Service direction as they sought a location to ride. Much of the use originates at the undeveloped Sandy Ford campsite along Whetstone Road. Riders cross the Chattooga at Earl's Ford and Sandy Ford. A 7 mile loop exists in Georgia and about 14 miles exist in South Carolina. Approximately \_\_\_% of this network is within the Chattooga River corridor.

The primary areas of conflict are at Earls Ford where horses must cross among numerous swimmers and boaters and in Gerogia where horses are sometimes rode along the Bartram and Chattooga Hiking trails.

A new crossing \_\_\_ mile above Earls Ford will be developed as soon as possible. Closure regulations, signing, barriers and discussions with riding groups will be used to reduce conflicts. No facilities for horse users (stalls, corrals, unloading ramps or water systems will be permitted within the corridor. Horses, mules, etc., must be tethered away from trees to avoid compaction of soil around trees and debarking of trees by the animals.

These horse trails will be placed on the trail system. Trail planning to determine optimum location and maintenance needs will be undertaken. The proposed Andrew Pickens horse trail is anticipated to be away from the Chattooga drainage when construction funds become available.

## BOUNDARY

The corridor is marked with intervisible 4" paint bands one-half way around trees facing away from the river corridor. Paint color will be No. 15102 or 25102 Blue in GSA catalog item 8010-00-680-0144 for Federal Standard No. 595a.

A boundary modification is needed in the vicinity of Warwoman Creek/Earls Ford in Georgia to bring the corridor in line with congressional intent (1/4 mile from the river). This proposal has been submitted to the Chief's office.

## Signs

Chattooga Portal signs have been repeated targets of vandalism and will not be re-installed unless local acceptance is anticipated in areas where repeated vandalism is anticipated. Words cut into large rocks with a sand blaster will continue to be used.

## ABANDONED HIGHWAY 76 STEEL BRIDGE

This bridge carried traffic from the early 1900's until replaced by a concrete bridge 50 yards downstream in 1949 when use and maintenance stopped. The wood decking rotted away and the bridge is now a negative visual impact to all users in the area.

The bridge is also a potential safety hazard, as young people climb on the truss work forty or more feet above the water. The plans published in the Federal Register called for its removal. This should be carried out as soon as possible using Forest Service funding or a volunteer military unit following the bridge removal plan.

After the bridge is gone, a regulation should be prepared to require all floaters to use the South Carolina side of the river. This will expose them to floater information, regulations, river rangers and make adequate parking available for hikers at the Chattooga Trailhead.

## OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Timber - Timber will be administered for recreation, watershed protection, aesthetic, and wildlife values. Some cutting of timber may occur in the construction of trails, for safety of users, or for scenic improvement.

Insects - Disease - Proposals to control must be developed through an Environmental Analysis approved by the Forest Supervisor.

Fire and Other Emergencies - Fires will be controlled under regular suppression policy. Within the river corridor, the District Rangers may approve use of power saw, truck-mounted and portable pumps, helicopters, aerial tankers, tractor-plows, dozers and vehicles used by search and rescue organizations. The Rangers will use the method of fire control which results in the least amount of environmental damage while adequate to control the fire.

Special Uses -Permits for new power lines and roads will be restricted to Recreation sections of the river. No occupancy permits will be issued within the river corridor.

Applications for filming permits will be evaluated against their impacts to visitors and the river environments. The Andrew Pickens District will be responsible for filming permits on the main river not in North Carolina. Should the filming also include scenes on the West Fork South Carolina will also administer them. Permits involving only West Fork locations will be handled by the Tallulah. Film companies will not use motorized equipment including vehicles, generators or helicopters in Wild sections. They may only use this equipment in Recreational and Scenic sections where the public may use motorized equipment such as parking lots and roads. Electrical cables from generators may be laid to filming sites inside the river corridor.

Minerals -Mineral and energy leasing will require special stipulations which may preclude surface occupancy. Removal of sand or gravel is not permitted on National Forest lands within the River boundary. There are no outstanding mineral rights.

Fisheries -Fish stocking from wheeled vehicles will be permitted at Burrell's Ford Bridge and Campground, Nicholson Field Road in Georgia; Ridley Field, Highway 28 Bridge; Long Bottom Ford and Bull Pen Bridge on the main river and at Overflow and Warwoman Bridges on the West Fork. Floating north of Highway 28 Bridge is prohibited, and fishing is encouraged in this section. Helicopter stocking will be permitted in inaccessible areas in an effort to distribute fish. However, stocking in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness (between Bull Pen and Burrells Ford bridges) is prohibited.

Wildlife Habitat -Mechanized cultivation of old fields in the recreation section of the river near Highway 28 and on the West Fork may be done to maintain landscape variety, provide openings and trees and shrubs beneficial to wildlife habitat, and provide a seed source for wildlife habitat work.

Water Quality -An approved water quality monitoring plan is part of the appendix to this management plan. The river has generally moderate to high water quality. Occasional past water pollution is indicated by high coliform counts entering via Stekoa Creek from Georgia.

Coliform levels in Stekoa Creek have greatly declined since the waste water treatment plant in Clayton, Georgia was improved. Diverse pollution sources including livestock, septic tanks, wildlife, recreation and community waste disposal systems may continue to infrequently cause coliform levels to exceed water contact standards. Water monitoring will continue since there are potential sources of pollution within the Chattooga watershed which could influence human health.

#### Russell House

This large frame farm house replaced an earlier house burned by the Union Army. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. During the early 1970's the house and 10 outbuildings served as a visitor center. However, its poor location on Highway 78 (away from the large volumes of visitors on Highway 76) resulted in very low visitation and the project was abandoned.

The Forest Service has been attempting to locate a third party willing to expend the considerable funds needed to restore and maintain the facility, in return for use of the property under Special Use Permit in a way compatible with the overall goods for the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.

## APPENDIX

Map of River and Surrounding Territory  
Job List  
Development Plan - Summary Of Accomplishments  
Chattooga Self Registration Form  
Regulations pertaining to The Chattooga

# DEVELOPMENT PLAN - SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>DEVELOPED</u> <u>SITE</u>	<u>PARKING</u> <u>LOT</u>	<u>LAUNCH</u> <u>SITE</u>	<u>TRAIL</u>	<u>ACCESS</u> <u>ROAD</u>
Bull Pen	NC	-	I	-	I	-
Burrells Ford	SC	C	C	-	C	C
Burrells Ford	GA	-	C	-	-	-
Ridley Field (1)	SC	-	C	-	C	-
Russell Fields	SC	D	C	C	-	-
Earls Ford	SC	D	C	C	C	C
Earls Ford	GA	-	I	I	I	I
Dick's Creek	GA	-	D	-	C	-
Sandy Ford (2)	SC	-	C	C	C	C
Sandy Ford	GA	-	I	I	I	I
Buckeye Branch	GA	-	-	-	D	-
Licklog	GA	-	C	D	C	C
Highway 76	SC	D	C	C	C	-
Highway 76	GA	-	I	D	-	-
Sutton Hole	GA	-	I	-	C	P
Woodall Shoals	SC	-	C	C	C	C
Cliff Creek	GA	-	D	-	D	-
Daniel's Creek	GA	-	-	-	C	P
Camp Creek	GA	-	C	C	C	C
Overflow Bridge	GA	-	D	D	-	C
West Fork (3)	GA	C	C	C	-	C
Tugaloo Lake	SC	I	P	P	-	P

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Not planned  
C Complete  
I Incomplete  
D Dropped  
P Primitive

(1 added 1976)  
(2 added 1976)  
(3 added 1984)

# JOB LIST

PROJECT	Responsibility	Cost	Priority
Non-recurrent Projects			
Prepare Highway 76 Bridge Removal Plan	SC	-	1
Remove Highway 76 Bridge	SC		3
Remove block building on West Fork	GA		3
Treat Kudzu at Highway 76 Parking Lot	SC		2
Update simulation model	SC		2
Test simulation model	SC		2
Analyze horse trail network	SC & GA	-	1
Relocate horse trail from Earls Ford	SC & GA		1
Finalize carrying Capacity Study	SC		2
Investigate Interpretative Association	SC	-	2
Complete Chattooga trail north of Bull Pen	NC		4
Complete Chattooga trail south of Bull Pen	NC		3
Complete boundary posting HW 28 -Burrels Ford	SC		4
Plan Tugaloo Lake Access	SC		1
Complete Tugaloo Lake Access	SC		3
Coordinate Tugaloo Road with County	SC		2
Plan & install barriers at Long Bottom Ford CG	SC		3
Recurrent Projects			
Monitor impact of camping by floaters	SC		2
Administer private floating	SC		1
Administer commercial floating	SC		1
Administer registration system	SC		1
Determine annual use	SC		2
Cleanup, maintenance, adm main river, facilities	SC		1
Cleanup, maintenance, West Fork	GA		2
Cleanup, maintenance, river in NC.	NC		2
Administer filming permits	SC (GA)		2
Assist in search and rescue	SC		1
Maintain hiking trails	SC		2
Maintain hiking trails	GA		2
Maintain hiking trails	NC		2
Recruite & supervise volunteers	SC		2
Acquire land when available	All		1
Work to close Earls and Sandy Ford roads	GA		1
Monitor water Quality	SC		2
Maintain Wildlife habitat projects	SC		2
Maintain wildlife habitat projects	GA		2
Coordinate helicopter fish stocking	SC		2
Annual FS meeting to evaluate management needs	All		1



## RECORD OF DECISION

### USDA, FOREST SERVICE

#### Final Environmental Impact Statement Sumter National Forest

#### Land and Resource Management Plan

Abbeville, Aiken, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda and Union Counties, South Carolina

## I. INTRODUCTION

This Record of Decision documents the approval of the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Sumter National Forest. The Sumter National Forest consists of 359,412 acres located in Abbeville, Aiken, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda and Union Counties of South Carolina.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) describes ten alternatives including the Selected Alternative (Forest Plan). It also describes the environment to be affected and discloses the consequences of the alternatives.

The Forest Plan provides for multiple-use coordination in the management of outdoor recreation, timber, watershed, minerals, wilderness, wildlife and fish, which results in sustained yields of goods and services for the benefit of the American people. The Forest Plan also provides broad direction for dealing with applications and permits for occupancy and use of the National Forest by the public. Permits, contracts and other instruments for the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands will conform with the Forest Plan by the earliest possible date. Activities affecting the Sumter National Forest must be in compliance with the Forest Plan. Ongoing activities will be brought into compliance as soon as practical.

The FEIS and Forest Plan were developed under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) (36 CFR 219). The FEIS meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations.

Land and resource management planning began with the identification of issues and concerns from within the Forest Service and through public contacts with local civic and community organizations, individuals, private industries, adjacent landowners and various interest groups. After public statements and management concerns were gathered and analyzed, eleven major issues were identified. (FEIS, pg. I-2)

A number of alternatives were then formulated which provide different ways to respond to the major issues, management concerns and resource opportunities. Throughout the subsequent steps of land and resource management planning, the issues and concerns were considered in the evaluation and decisionmaking process.

## II. DECISION

It is my decision to select Alternative N from the FEIS to develop as the Forest Plan for the Sumter National Forest. Pursuant to this, I am approving the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which is designed to accomplish the objectives of Alternative N in the FEIS. Alternative N is a modification of the "preferred alternative" identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The alternative was modified in response to concerns raised during the public review of the DEIS.

This decision is made after public review of the DEIS and my review of the public responses and the environmental consequences disclosed in the FEIS.

Chapter IV of the Forest Plan sets goals, objectives, standards, guidelines and management prescriptions for the Sumter National Forest.

Highlights of significant decisions in the Forest Plan follow.

- Critical habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species will be managed and protected. Management of habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker is designed to increase the population to ten active colonies as prescribed in the Wildlife Management Handbook.
- The Ellicott Rock Wilderness Areas will be managed to protect those characteristics and values which led to wilderness designation. The Ellicott Rock Extension Roadless Area (1,969 acres) will be recommended for wilderness study area designation. Although such designation requires an act of Congress, the area will be managed to protect wilderness values until (1) Congress takes action on this recommendation or (2) the Plan is revised in 10 to 15 years.
- Viable (self-sustaining) populations of all native vertebrate and plant species will be maintained and mitigating management practices (FEIS, Appendix B) will ensure that the habitat needs for these species are maintained and/or improved. The Forest Plan projects higher populations of game species than is projected under current management for this planning period. Viable to high populations of non-game species should be achieved by the proposed management.
- The Forest Plan contains management prescriptions (detailed in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan) which provide a more diverse habitat for both early (young trees) and late (older and/or larger trees) successional species than is currently found on the Forest.

- Old growth pine and hardwood are provided in wilderness, scenic areas, special areas, red-cockaded woodpecker management areas, key wildlife habitat areas, hardwood inclusions in pine stands, streamside zones and old growth management prescriptions scattered over the Forest. There will be a significant increase in acres of old growth from current management primarily due to the addition of old growth management prescriptions and an increase in the number of special areas.
- Even-aged management has been selected as the appropriate silvicultural system for the Forest Plan (FEIS, Appendix E). Clearcutting has been determined to be the optimum harvest method to best meet the objectives and requirements of the plan except for situations where seedtree or shelterwood methods are more appropriate.
- There will be changes in the management of the timber resource. For instance, the average rotation age for pine species will decrease from 60 to 55 years. The average rotation age for hardwood species will remain at 100 years. Timber harvest levels will increase from 100 million cubic feet (MMCF) under current management to 116 MMCF during the planning period.
- Eight "special areas" will be managed to preserve unique scenic, cultural, or biological values: Broad River Scenic Area, Chauga River Scenic Area, De La Howe Tract, Long Cane Scenic Area, Lee Falls Special Area, Station Cove Botanical Area, Turkey-Stevens Creek Protected Corridor and White Rock Scenic Area.
- The Chattooga Wild & Scenic River will be managed to provide a range of high quality recreation opportunities characteristic of wild and scenic rivers (refer to Chapter IV and Appendix M).
- 80% of newly constructed local system roads will be closed when not in use and seeded to plant mixtures beneficial to wildlife.

The Forest Plan does not:

- Maximize any single resource use. (Multiple use management is emphasized.)
- Propose the production of any resource beyond the biological capability of that resource.
- Propose management of any resource based solely on values in the market place. (Non-market values received equal consideration).

### III. RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The decision to select Alternative N as the Forest Plan was based on its ability to provide a high level of diverse benefits and respond to public concerns with the draft plan.

No single factor or individual consideration constitutes the total rationale for the decision. Instead, it was the consideration of many factors and their interrelationships that led to this decision.

The list of considerations possible in decisionmaking for the multiple use of the Sumter NF is extensive. The following discussion brings forth many important facts considered in the decision.

- (1) Laws, federal regulations, executive orders, and policy. The Forest Plan, to the best of our knowledge, complies with all legal requirements and policies applicable to the Sumter NF.
- (2) Issues concerning management of the Sumter NF. NFMA regulations require the early identification of issues affecting the Sumter National Forest, and require that one or more alternatives in the EIS address each of the major issues. How well each of the alternatives responded to the eleven major issues identified was a major consideration in the selection of the Forest Plan (FEIS, Chapter II). Since all ten alternatives fully responded to issues on management of the Chattooga River and landownership adjustments, the selection of Alternative N as the Forest Plan did not affect the treatment of these issues. The treatment of each issue is discussed below.

Issue 1. How will the Forest be managed to provide habitat for wildlife?

Management prescriptions in the Forest Plan will provide a diversity of habitats for early and late successional species including old growth pine and hardwood. Standards for dispersing timber harvest will ensure adequate acreage to meet the needs of early successional wildlife such as deer while "old-growth" will meet the needs of late successional wildlife such as turkey and squirrel.

Management practices for pine management types will allow a hardwood component of up to 30% of the stand composition. Within stands designated hardwood management types, the management practices will allow a pine component of up to 30% of the stand composition.

Threatened, endangered and sensitive species of both animals and plants and their management in relation to other resources are addressed in the Forest Plan by the inclusion of standards and guidelines that affect the management of all resources. (Forest Plan, pg. IV-2).

Trout streams will be protected to maintain the water quality necessary to qualify for state Class A streams.

Wildlife management will be coordinated with state and federal wildlife agencies.

One federally listed endangered animal species (one colony of red-cockaded woodpecker) is located on the Sumter National Forest. Another federally listed endangered species (southern bald eagle) has been identified near the Andrew Pickens Ranger District. The American osprey (a sensitive animal species) has also been identified near the Andrew Pickens District. Three small colonies of small whorled pogonia (a federally endangered plant species) occur on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District. Fourteen species of sensitive plants (Forest Plan, Pgs. III-9) are recognized as existing on the Sumter NF. The Forest Plan provides for habitat management that is designed to maintain and enhance the well-being and recovery of these species.

The Forest will be managed to provide a mix of habitats to meet the needs of early and late successional species. The plan does not maximize the management of any wildlife species.

- Issue 2. How will the Chattooga River be managed to provide a variety of recreational experiences and also meet the objectives of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act?

The Chattooga Wild and Scenic River will be managed under the standards and guidelines contained in the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Guide (Appendix M of the Plan). All ten alternatives contain the same management direction for this National Wild and Scenic River. The Forest Plan is fully responsive to this issue.

- Issue 3. What special areas will be established or modified?

The Plan features eight "special areas" (totaling 9,396 acres) which are managed to protect unusual scenic, biological or recreational values: Broad River Scenic Area, Chauga River Scenic Area, De La Howe Tract, Long Cane Scenic Area, Lee Falls Special Area, Station Cove Botanical Area, Turkey-Stevens Creek Protected Corridor and White Rock Scenic Area. (These eight areas form Management Areas 7 and 16.)

Alternative N (the Selected Alternative) contains more acreage as "special areas" than the other nine alternatives. All areas proposed by public comment were included in special areas or were handled to the satisfaction of the respondents.

- Issue 4. What should be the final recommendation for RARE II Areas?

The Forest Plan recommends that the Ellicott Rock Extension Roadless Area (1,969 acres) be designated as a

wilderness study area. (This designation will require Congressional action.) Approximately half of the Persimmon Mountain Roadless Area will form the White Rock Scenic Area; the remainder will return to "general forest area". The portions of the Ellicott Rock Expansion and Long Creek Roadless Areas in the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River corridor will remain as part of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River. The remainder of these areas will return to "general forest area". The Long Cane Roadless Area will remain the Long Cane Scenic Area.

The recommendation of Ellicott Rock Extension as a wilderness study area and the establishment of the White Rock Scenic area are the results of the Roadless Area Evaluation (FEIS, Appendix C) and public comment on the DEIS and draft Forest Plan. Ellicott Rock Extension rated very high in the evaluation and had public support as a wilderness study area. There was substantial public concern for some type of special protection for the more unique and scenic portions of the Persimmon Mountain RARE II area although the area did not rate high in the evaluation. For this reason, approximately half of the Persimmon Mountain area containing the more unique areas were proposed for scenic area designation.

Issue 5. How will the Forest minimize user conflict and provide an acceptable range of opportunities for dispersed recreation?

A broad spectrum of recreational opportunities will be provided through the management of developed recreation sites, dispersed recreation and wilderness. Existing developed recreation sites, trails, and designated areas of concentrated public use will be retained.

The addition of a horse trail, a cycle trail and special areas will provide additional opportunities to meet the overall demand for this segment of the recreating public.

The Forest Plan will provide sufficient supplies of developed, dispersed, and wilderness opportunities to satisfy anticipated demand over the next fifty years. The Forest Plan provides for the anticipated demand for recreation and wilderness.

Some user conflict, primarily between hunters and other dispersed recreation users will continue. The additional recreational opportunities provided in this plan help disperse use and will serve to lessen this conflict.

The rafting use on the Chattooga River will continue to be regulated. The demand will exceed available supply during peak periods. The regulated use is designed to give a better recreation experience to the rafters and reduce crowding on the river.

- Issue 6. How will the Forest be managed to provide wood for home heating and other energy uses?

Under the Plan the Forest will produce a moderate level of fuelwood while emphasizing multiple use management of resources. It provides for 2.3 MMCF of fuelwood for the first ten year period and projects 11 MMCF available over the 50-year period which is less than the current management projection. Demand was not calculated for fuelwood. However, it is doubtful fuelwood supply from the forest will satisfy the demand after the first period.

Fuelwood supply is directly related to the amount of hardwood timber cut. The plan projects a relatively low production of hardwood harvest because of mitigating measures for wildlife and the amount of hardwood in special areas.

- Issue 7. How will the Forest be managed for timber on a sustained yield basis?

Productive soils and a favorable climate provides the capability for the production of quality sawtimber while maintaining a healthy environment for wildlife and several endangered species. The timber sale program is the primary source of revenue. It contributes both directly and indirectly to the local community and to the economy. Aside from the direct effects on employment and supplies of wood products, it also has important influences on the production and use of other resources such as wildlife and recreation by providing variety in vegetation as a result of timber harvest cutting. For these reasons, the management of the timber resource becomes a critical activity to meet the resource use objectives of the Forest Plan.

Even-aged management will be the silvicultural system using both natural and artificial regeneration (FEIS, Appendix E). Clearcutting was determined to be the optimum harvest cutting method for the Forest Plan, except where seedtree or shelterwood is more appropriate.

Planned timber sales in the Forest Plan provide an allowable sale quantity of 116 MMCF for the first 10-year period as compared to 100 MMCF for the current management alternative. Demand for the first decade is

estimated to be 158 MMCF. Long-term sustained yield capacity (LTSYC) is 211 MMCF per decade. 85% of the LTSYC will be reached by the fifth decade. Alternatives that would produce a higher level of timber were not selected because the impacts on other multiple uses such as water quality and wildlife would be unacceptable.

Although not fully responsive to projected demands for timber, the Plan produces an increasing level of timber over time in a way that is compatible to other forest values.

Rotations will average 55 years for pines and 100 years for hardwoods.

Many types of site preparation will be employed as determined by site condition and need.

Close supervision of harvest methods and equipment used along with prompt restoration of vegetative cover will help minimize soil movement and protect water quality.

Issue 8. What criteria should be used for selecting roads to be closed?

The Plan calls for 80% of newly constructed local roads to be managed as intermittent service (closed to public use). The current alternative would also manage approximately 80% of newly constructed local roads as intermittent service.

The decision to manage a newly constructed road for intermediate or constant service will be based on resource management objectives, environmental constraints, jurisdiction, safety considerations and access requirements of adjoining landowners.

Issue 9. Where should forest roads and trails be located, and to what standards should they be designed, constructed and maintained?

Design criteria used for roads consists of resource management objectives, environmental constraints, physical factors, traffic, traffic service levels, vehicle characteristics, users and economics. The more intensively managed areas usually will require higher traffic service levels on new roads. Local road construction densities were determined by a sampling of compartments on each Ranger District for most economical methods of timber management while providing resource protection for soil and water values.



The Plan would construct a horse trail on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District and a motorcycle trail on the Enoree Ranger District. These two additions to the trail system will meet the trail needs for this period.

Issue 10. How can forest ownership be changed to provide greater service, efficiency and public access?

The Forest Plan is responsive to the need to consolidate federal ownership for increased efficiency and to provide greater public access to National Forest lands. This is accomplished primarily through a land exchange program projected to average 900 acres per year for the first decade.

Issue 11. How will the soil and water resources be protected and enhanced, and what will be the extent of the resource improvement program for treating areas with severe soil erosion?

Because of the importance of protection and management of these resources, the plan contains standards and guidelines designed to (1) protect riparian areas (including wetlands) and (2) protect soil productivity (Forest Plan, Chapter IV and Appendix L). The plan also contains a program of soil improvement designed to rehabilitate areas with severe soil erosion problems. Therefore, the plan is responsive to this issue.

- (3) Comments received from the public and elected officials. The forest received 226 comments from individuals, organizations and businesses on the DEIS and proposed Plan. Primary concerns were an additional motorcycle trail, additional special areas and wildlife habitat. Five responses were received from elected officials (one Senator, two Representatives, one State Senator and the Governor). Additionally, responses were received from the County Councils of Edgefield, Newberry and Oconee Counties. These comments are included, along with the Forest Service response, as a part of Appendix I in the FEIS. All of these comments were considered in the FEIS and Forest Plan.

An attempt was made to incorporate all concerns in the final decision. Comments requesting the major adjustment of resources (primarily wildlife and wilderness) could not be fully accommodated without adverse impacts on other resources and a loss of balance in multiple use.

- (4) Comments of federal and state agencies. Appendix A (pages A-6 thru A-8) of the FEIS documents the contacts made with other federal, state and local agencies. There are no known Indian tribes in the planning area. Thirty-nine agencies were contacted during the planning process. The Forest Land Management Planning Interdisciplinary Team reviewed forty-one plans/documents from

other agencies. To the best of our knowledge, the Forest Plan does not conflict with and is compatible with other plans.

Eight federal and ten state agencies responded to the DEIS and proposed Plan. These comments are included in Appendix I of the FEIS.

Of particular concern to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department are (1) management of the habitat for endangered species, (2) management of mixed pine/hardwood stands, (3) maintaining huntable populations of game species, (4) retention and increase of mast producing hardwoods, (5) distribution of old growth over the Forest (rather than concentrated in wilderness areas) and (6) increased construction of local roads. (The modifications necessary to resolve these concerns are discussed in Appendix I of the FEIS).

The Forest Plan was modified to satisfy these concerns with the exception of management of mixed pine/hardwood stands (stands with more balanced hardwood and pine components than the 70%-30% composition described in (2) issue 1). The management of such stands was not adopted because specific objectives and management direction has not been developed and tested. Currently, feasibility of managing this forest type is under study. Significant comments on this matter and our response are located in Appendix I of the FEIS.

- (5) National and regional goals as expressed in the 1980 Resource Planning Act (RPA) Program and the Regional Guide for the South. Alternative B in the FEIS was prepared in response to the targets and goals assigned to the Sumter National Forest in the Regional Guide (Forest Plan, page II-14). The Forest Plan meets assigned 1980 RPA targets and goals for timber, wildlife habitat improvement, developed and dispersed recreation use, trail construction and reconstruction, water quality goals, property line maintenance, and road construction and reconstruction.

The targets for land acquisition, land exchange and range were not met. Land acquisition and exchange targets were very high in relation to other programs in the Plan and would require a disproportionate share of projected budgets. The range target is not compatible with the demand for forage and the need for wildlife habitat.

- (6) Economic effects of plan implementation. NFMA requires the evaluation of many different factors including economic and social parameters. Present net value (PNV) is the present value of selected priced and nonpriced benefits minus the present value of all costs over the planning period. The PNV for the Forest Plan ranks as the sixth highest among the ten alternatives. The mix of management activities required to produce the balanced program reduced the PNV because some necessary activities do not

produce high economic benefits. Chapter II of the FEIS provides a detailed comparison of PNW between alternatives.

The total income to the U.S. Treasury and returns to the counties are two other economic factors considered. Both are expected to follow the same trend when viewed over a 50-year period because returns to the counties generally are 25% of revenues to the U.S. Of the ten alternatives, five project more revenues to both the U.S. and counties than the Forest Plan, and four project less. Revenues to the U.S. increase from 26.37 million dollars (MM\$) under current management to 38.66 MM\$ under the Plan for the first decade. Revenues to the counties increase from 14.26 MM\$ to 19.91 MM\$ for the same period. To significantly increase the income to the U.S. and counties above the amount planned would mean emphasizing timber and probable reduction in some other resources.

The Forest Plan budget is 20% higher than the current Alternative (A) for the first decade. This increase is reasonable in terms of budget trends over the years. Increases are due primarily to the timber, road construction and trail construction and maintenance. The comparison of many of the economic parameters is treated in detail in the latter part of Chapter II of the FEIS and were considered in reaching this decision.

Chapter II of the Forest Plan contains a chart that allows a comparison of the demand for timber, wildlife and fish, recreation, water, and wilderness. Also included in this chart is the demand in relation to the Forest's physical capability to supply, and the current and predicted use over time. The Forest Plan produces a reasonable, cost efficient mix of resource uses. The following Table 1 presents information about these uses, costs and benefits. This information was considered in reaching this decision.

- (7) Social-Economic Benefits. Appendix B of the FEIS contains a "Social and Economic Impact Analysis" detailing the social and economic effects of the ten alternatives on the local economy of Abbeville, Aiken, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda and Union Counties. The Forest Plan is responsive because it contributes the most to overall community stability, employment and general Forest availability to the public for many uses.

Based on the analysis of public response, the Forest Plan provides the best mixture of market resources and amenity values. There are four alternatives which provide greater increases in employment and income in the local economy of Abbeville, Aiken, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda and Union Counties than the Forest Plan. Five alternatives yield greater returns to concerned counties. However, these five alternatives are oriented toward resources with market values (primarily timber) with less attention to other values such as water quality, recreation and wildlife habitat. The remaining alternatives (including the Forest Plan), on the

other hand, provide for more balanced attention and concern for all resources (Forest Plan, page II-109).]

- (8) Physical or biological effects. The resource use that has the most significant effect on other resources is the production of timber with accompanying road construction. At moderate levels of production, the relationship between timber and most other resources is compatible and often complementary. The potential adverse effects on soil, water and air quality have been mitigated through standards and guidelines to maintain or improve their current condition. Wildlife habitat will be more diverse with more forest area being managed for older trees. This will be done in order to encourage increased populations of wildlife species requiring that type of habitat. The Forest Plan was based upon a mix of uses that optimized compatibility. For a complete review of the many facts that explore this level of use question, please refer to Chapter II of the FEIS (Comparison of Alternatives) and Chapter II of the Forest Plan (Supply and Demand Comparison). These chapters display the many opportunities that were analyzed prior to the decision. For a detailed discussion of the physical and biological effects, refer to Table IV-11 of the FEIS.

#### IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

In addition to the Forest Plan (Alternative N), there were nine other alternatives considered in detail for managing the Sumter National Forest. All alternatives are described and compared in Chapter II of the FEIS.

Alternative A represents current management (yields based on average of years 1980, 1981 and 1982) of the Sumter National Forest based on existing policies, standards, and guidelines. It meets the requirements for development of a "no action" alternative (defined as the current program of management). Current management produces a moderate mixture of resource yields with no single resource managed intensively or emphasized to the detriment of another.

Alternative B is designed to achieve the Forest's RPA targets. It responds to and incorporates the RPA Program objectives displayed in the Regional Guide for the South.

Alternative C manages the Sumter National Forest to maximize net public benefits consistent with resource integration and management requirements.

Alternative D emphasizes timber production and wildlife in the piedmont and dispersed recreation in the mountains (while maintaining a balanced program of multiple use management).

Alternative E manages the Sumter National Forest for maximum sustained income with minimum investments.

Alternative P manages the Sumter National Forest to produce a moderately high level of timber yields on a sustained yield level while

maintaining a balanced program of multiple use management.  
(Alternative P was identified as the Forest Service preferred alternative in the DEIS.)

Alternative F manages the Sumter National Forest to attain a maximum fiber yield while maintaining a desired level of other resources.

Alternative G maintains the Sumter National Forest in a custodial manner. This alternative would plan only activities necessary to prevent permanent impairment of the long-term productivity of the land.

Alternative H emphasizes primitive recreation and wilderness values.

Alternative N manages the Sumter National Forest under multiple use principles without emphasis on any single resource.

Table 1 displays the significant differences between the alternatives.  
(FEIS, Chapter II)

TABLE 1 RESOURCE YIELDS, ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS WITH SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALTERNATIVES

Resource/Benefit	Unit of Measure	Alternatives									
		A	B	C	D	E	P	F	G	H	N
TIMBER											
LTSYC	MMCF/Decade	151.3	220.5	260.7	145.9	219.2	243.0	294.8	6.0	58.3	210.7
ASQ	Total MMCF*	675	830	1,053	684	952	1,020	1,088	30	292	865
Acres Regener.	M Acres*	189.6	238.7	271.6	217.9	272.0	266.3	281.5	--	104.1	240.3
Fuelwood Harv.	Total MMCF*	13.7	11.7	17.3	12.6	13.5	15.0	24.9	--	0.9	10.8
WILDLIFE											
Deer Habitat	M WFUDs*	2875	3254	3403	3246	3378	3167	3280	1893	2730	3165
Turkey Habitat	M WFUDs*	1025	1421	1349	1386	1336	996	1313	1160	1676	1067
Other Small Game Habitat	M WFUDs*	4570	4786	4867	4672	4876	4839	4626	3744	4354	4815
Fish Habitat	M WFUDs*	1985	1985	1985	2115	1985	1985	1985	1027	1985	1985
TOTAL Habitat	M WFUDs*	10455	11446	11604	11419	11575	10987	11204	7824	10745	11032
SPECIAL AREAS**	ACRES	985	1230	0	7710	985	5800	1460	---	7060	9396
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS***	ACRES	1990	1969	3691	6531	10656	1969	0	0	14575	1969
PRESENT NET VALUE	MM\$*	452.1	532.9	575.3	482.3	549.0	533.4	560.5	89.7	417.0	515.3
RETURNS TO U.S.	MM\$*	359.4	557.0	711.0	381.6	601.6	631.3	712.8	0	169.0	573.7
RETURNS TO STATE [ (COUNTIES) ]	MM\$*	149.4	222.5	283.0	157.0	246.4	257.3	286.3	0.2	71.4	229.4

\* Total for the fifty year period.

\*\* Acreage needed to protect, preserve or interpret unique scenic, biological or recreational qualities. (This acreage does not include the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Chattooga Wild and Scenic River or Wilderness Study Areas.)

\*\*\* Roadless Areas recommended for wilderness study area designation.

LTSYC Long-term Sustained Yield Capacity

ASQ Allowable Sale Quantity

WFUDS Wildlife and Fish User Days

MM\$ Millions of Dollars

MMCF Million Cubic Feet

## V. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE AND COMPARISON WITH THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

The identification of the environmentally preferred alternative is based upon the effect on the physical and biological environment.

A detailed discussion of the environmental effects for each alternative is included in Chapter IV of the FEIS.

Alternative G has been identified as the environmentally preferred alternative. It involves minimal disturbance to the physical and biological environment. The Forest Service would essentially be a "caretaker" to the Sumter National Forest. Most natural processes would proceed without discernable human intervention. (The major exception would be the prevention of catastrophic losses.)

Although the Forest Plan has a greater overall effect on the environment than Alternative G, it was selected because it provides a high level of needed public benefits. It provides for goods and services indicated in the Regional Guide and more diverse habitat for game species. The Forest Plan has less potential for large insect infestations and catastrophic wildfires because of prescribed burning, better road access and more healthy, vigorous stands due to thinning than Alternative G. The Forest Plan will also provide more developed recreation sites, dispersed recreation (including hunting of many game species), and increased opportunities for gathering fuelwood. The Forest Plan provides for viable to high populations of native plants and animals while Alternative G does not.

From an economic and social perspective, the Forest Plan will provide for more employment and income in the local economy of Abbeville, Aiken, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda and Union Counties. The 25% returns to these counties would also be higher under the Forest Plan and are needed to support local schools and roads. Return to the U.S. Treasury would also be higher.

## VI. COMPARISON OF THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE TO ALTERNATIVES WITH GREATER PRESENT NET VALUES

Alternatives B, C, E, F and P have greater present net values than the Forest Plan.

Alternative C (the Maximum Present Net Value Benchmark) has the highest present net value (575.3 MM\$) of all alternatives. This alternative provides high yields of products that have a value in the market place with less emphasis on amenity values such as aesthetics, soil, water and special areas. It provides a high long-term sustained timber yield and allowable timber sale quantity, for a large increase in employment and income for the local economies, high 25% returns to the county governments and the high returns to the U. S. Treasury. This alternative would not provide protection to many areas of unique scenic, biological, and recreational value. Based on comments received

on the DEIS and Forest Plan, this alternative is less responsive to public concerns and is not a balanced multiple use program.

Alternative F has the next highest present net value (560.5 MM\$) of the alternatives considered in detail. As with alternative C, this alternative provides high yields of market values (timber products) with less emphasis on amenity values. It provides the highest long-term sustained yield of timber and allowable timber sale quantity. Alternative F provides high gains in employment and income for the local economies, 25% returns to the county governments and increases in returns to the U. S. Treasury. Based on comments received on the DEIS and Forest Plan, this alternative is not responsive to public concerns such as old growth and special areas.

Alternative E has the third highest present net value (549.0 MM\$) of the alternatives considered in detail. This alternative provides a mixture of market and amenity values. It provides a moderately high long-term sustained timber yield, allowable sale quantity, increase in employment and income for the local economies, 25% returns to the county governments and returns to the U. S. Treasury. This alternative also provides for an additional 10,656 acres of wilderness study area. Based on comments received on the DEIS and Forest Plan, this alternative does not fully respond to public concerns against increased wilderness.

Alternative P has the fourth highest present net value (533.4 MM\$) of the alternatives considered in detail. This alternative also provides a mixture of market and amenity values. It provides a moderately high long-term sustained timber yield, allowable sale quantity, increase in employment and income for the local economies, 25% returns to the county governments and returns to the U. S. Treasury. This alternative also provides for the protection of many areas of unique scenic, biological or recreational value. This alternative was the basis for formulating Alternative N (the Forest Plan) after it was modified using the comments received on the DEIS and Draft Forest Plan.

Alternative B has the fifth highest present net value (532.9 MM\$) of the alternatives considered in detail. This alternative also provides a mixture of market and amenity values. It has a slightly higher long-term sustained timber yield and lower allowable timber sale quantity than the Selected Alternative. Alternative B provides for less employment and income for the local economies, increased 25% returns to the county governments and increased returns to the U. S. Treasury. This alternative would not provide protection to many areas of unique scenic, biological, and recreational value. For these reasons this alternative does not meet the needs of the local communities.

The Forest Plan (Alternative N) has the sixth highest present net value (515.3 MM\$) of the alternatives considered. It provides a moderate long-term sustained timber yield and allowable sale quantity. This alternative provides a mixture of market and amenity values. The plan increases employment and income for the local economies, the 25% returns to the county governments and returns to the U. S. Treasury.



It would provide protection to areas of unique scenic, biological, or recreational value. This alternative was formulated to be responsive to public comments on the DEIS and Proposed Plan. As such, it is the most responsive to public concerns.

## VII. SPECIAL AREAS OR AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC INTEREST

Chapter IV of the Forest Plan contains management direction, management objectives, proposed and probable management practices, and standards and guidelines for the management areas on the Sumter National Forest.

Management Area 1 contains the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area. It will be managed under the current standards and guidelines. Appendix F of the Forest Plan contains a detailed description of the management program for this wilderness area.

Management Area 2 contains the Ellicott Rock Extension Roadless Area (1,969 acres). This area will be recommended for wilderness study.

Management Area 3 contains the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River. This National Wild and Scenic River will be managed according to the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Guide (Appendix M of the Plan).

Management Area 7 contains Broad River Scenic Area, Chauga River Scenic Area, Lee Falls Special Area, Long Cane Scenic Area, Station Cove Botanical Area, Turkey-Stevens Creek Protected Corridor and White Rock Scenic Area. These seven areas will be managed to protect unusual scenic, biological or recreational values.

Management Area 16 contains the De La Howe tract. This 100 acre area will be managed in a natural state with natural vegetative succession.

## VIII. MITIGATION AND MONITORING

Management of the Sumter National Forest will be guided by the requirements contained in the Forest Direction and Management Area Prescriptions found in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan. These management requirements were developed through an interdisciplinary team effort and contain measures necessary to mitigate or eliminate long-term adverse effects. Unavoidable adverse environmental effects from timber harvesting, prescribed burning, road construction and other management activities will be temporary and will involve only a small percentage of the Forest at any one time. To the best of my knowledge, practical mitigating measures have been adopted and are included in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan. These mitigating measures include standards and guidelines designed to (1) protect riparian areas, (2) minimize adverse effects on visual quality, (3) minimize the loss of soil productivity, (4) protect cultural resources, (5) maintain viable populations of native vertebrate and plant species, (6) protect and enhance habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species, (7) maintain soil productivity and water quality and (8) provide for the proper use of pesticides.

Appendix G of the Forest Plan contains the monitoring program for the Sumter National Forest. The purpose of the monitoring program is two-fold: (1) to evaluate whether Forest goals and objectives are being realized and (2) to determine how closely management requirements have been followed. The results of monitoring and evaluation will be used to measure the progress of the Forest Plan's implementation. These results will also help to determine when Forest Plan amendments or revisions are needed.

## IX. IMPLEMENTATION

The Forest Plan will not be implemented sooner than 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the Forest Plan, FEIS, and Record of Decision appear in the Federal Register. The time needed to bring activities into compliance with the Forest Plan will vary, depending upon the type of project. Compliance with the Forest Plan will be completed as soon as possible.

Existing projects, as well as contractual obligations, will continue as originally planned and be brought into compliance with the Forest Plan as soon as practicable. During implementation, however, the following minimum requirements, subject to valid existing rights, will be met. The Forest Supervisor will assure that (1) annual program proposals and projects are consistent with the Forest Plan, (2) program budget proposals and objectives are consistent with management direction specified in the Forest Plan and (3) implementation is in compliance with the Regional Guide and NFMA Implementing Procedures: 36 CFR 219.10 (e), 36 CFR 219.11 (d) and 36 CFR 219.27.

It is important to note that all proposals in the plan can be accomplished from physical, biological, economic and legal perspectives. However, it is not certain they will be accomplished. Outputs proposed by the plan are projections. The plan is implemented by way of various site-specific projects, such as the building of a road, development of a campground, or the sale of timber. If the budget is changed in any given year, the projects scheduled for that year may have to be rescheduled; however, the goals and land-activity assignments described in the plan will not change unless the plan is revised. If the budget is changed significantly over a period of several years, the plan itself may have to be amended (36 CFR 219.10(e)).

During implementation, as various projects are designed, more site-specific environmental analyses will be performed with NEPA documentation as appropriate. Any resulting documents will be tiered to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for this plan, pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.28 (1984).

Proposals to use National Forest System lands will be reviewed for consistency with the Forest Plan. Management direction, contained in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan, will be used to analyze any proposal involving the use of National Forest System lands. Permits, contracts, and other instruments for occupancy and use of these lands must be

consistent with the Management direction in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan. This is required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 [16 USC 1604 (i)] and the NFMA Implementing Procedures [36 CFR 219.10 (e)].

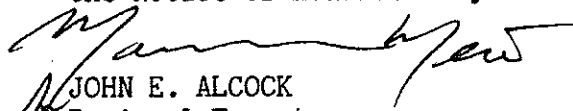
X. RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 211.18. Notice of appeal must be in writing and submitted to:

John E. Alcock, Regional Forester  
Southern Region  
1720 Peachtree Road, N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30367

A notice of appeal must be submitted within 45 days from the date of this decision. A statement of reasons to support the appeal and any request for an oral presentation must be filed within the 45-day period for filing a notice of appeal.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1506.10 (b) (2) and 36 CFR 211.18 (c) (3), the appeal period for the Forest Plan and FEIS cannot expire prior to thirty days after publication by the Environmental Protection Agency of the Notice of Availability of the FEIS.

  
JOHN E. ALCOCK  
Regional Forester

Date: AUG - 2 1985



# In Existing Sumter Plan

## I. INTRODUCTION

Congress designated 57 miles of the Chattooga River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System on May 10, 1974. This river corridor has the potential to become one of the most significant areas in the east providing a wide range of challenging outdoor recreational pursuits in a primitive setting. Managers will have to evaluate carefully all actions to ensure that decisions are based on a national perspective rather than on a more limited scope. This Plan provides detailed management direction for resources and people using the river under the guidance of the Forest Land Management Plan. The Plan will be reviewed annually and revised as needed.

The Chattooga River forms south of Highlands, North Carolina, and flows south for about 10 miles before leaving the state and forming the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina for 40 miles. The river ends at Lake Tugaloo, where a series of hydroelectric dams have flooded the river.

The terrain is very rugged, as the river drops almost 1/2 mile over numerous rapids and waterfalls. The Chattooga offers some of the most challenging white water in the southeast, and floating use by both commercial and private individuals has increased dramatically in the last 15 years.

The Chattooga is also a major recreation attraction for numerous fishermen who consider it to be the premier trout fishing stream in South Carolina and one of the best in Georgia. Fishermen tend to congregate at the major stocking points of Long Bottom Ford, Highway 28 Bridge, Burrell's Ford, and Bull Pen. However, many seek the recreational value of a hike into the more remote reaches between Burrell's Ford and the Highway 28 Bridge.

Only 4 bridges span the more than 45 miles of nearly solid National Forest ownership along the main river, and roads are limited. The 60 miles of foot trails permit hikers, hunters, and fishermen to leave behind civilization and motor vehicles and experience challenge and solitude only a few hours from major population centers such as Atlanta and Columbia.

Congress established a corridor averaging 1/4 mile wide on either side of the river to protect the river environment. Public use of motorized vehicles within this corridor is generally prohibited except on the few miles of existing roads that remain open. Off-road vehicle use is prohibited.

In 1975 Congress designated the Ellicott Rock Wilderness on the upper headwaters. They enlarged the Wilderness in 1984, and the Chattooga flows through the area for more than 5 miles.

Facilities within the corridor are generally primitive, and designed to protect the environment by controlling human use rather than by providing extensive facilities such as major campgrounds. Facilities for using the river are essentially adequate for most use. Fourteen parking lots with trails to the river exist. Hiking trails traverse much of the corridor above Highway 76 providing access.

Completion of the Chattooga Hiking Trail from Bull Pen Bridge to Highway 76 Bridge along the river resulted in increased hiking and dispersed camping within the corridor boundary, shifting use away from the heavily used Ellicott Rock Wilderness.

Use patterns have stabilized on the river, although use continues to rise. Floating is limited to the 26 mile portion below Highway 28 Bridge and the West Fork's lower 4 miles in Georgia. Sections of the river designated I-IV are open to boating with each section providing progressively more difficult white water than the preceding one.

## II. ADMINISTRATION

### A. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

#### Description

Sixty-eight percent of the river is classified WILD, where travel will be by foot or boat only. (See map in Appendix C.) Motor vehicle use will be for emergencies only—fire or search and rescue. Five percent of the river is classified SCENIC, composed of portions where bridges cross the river. About 27% of the river is classified as RECREATION. These are areas that were under cultivation or contained roads and houses at the time of classification. They may be managed to accommodate visitors using motor vehicle access to the river, or to provide wildlife habitat. Since road closures five to ten years ago, parts of these areas are reverting, through natural regeneration, to a pristine appearance once again.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a land classification system which categorizes National Forest land into six classes, each class being defined by its setting and by the probable recreational experiences and activities it affords. ROS does not attempt to delineate the best experience but determines what recreation the resource is presently providing and what potential for change from present exists, if any.

Land Management Plans for the three Forests list three ROS classes for land within the Chattooga River Corridor: Semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM), Semi-primitive motorized (SPM) and Roaded natural (RN). (See the LMP and ROS users' guides for more detailed explanation.) Experience levels can be described by several factors.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL	PEOPLE CONTACT	CONTROLS EVIDENT	ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION
SPNM	Low	Not evident	Not generally evident
SPM	Low	Not evident	Not generally evident
RN	Medium	Evident/but subdued	Modification can be discerned but natural environment dominates.

Most land within the Chattooga River Corridor falls within the semi-primitive experience. Numerous people may use the river at the same time, but bends and rapids prevent long sight distances, and falling water mutes sounds. Numerous other rivers, i.e., Ocoee, Chattahoochee, Nantahala, and French Broad, provide white water floating experiences but are unable to provide a semi-primitive experience due to developments including highways and railroads paralleling the river. Management will be geared to feature challenging, semi-primitive experiences in the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

#### Objectives

The Act establishing the Wild and Scenic River program states that, "Each Component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said System without, insofar as is consistent therewith, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration, primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its aesthetic, scenic, historic, archaeological, and scientific features. Management plans for any such component may establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development based on the special attributes of the area."

Only 3 other rivers were found in an analysis of 48 rivers within a 250 mile radius of the Chattooga that provide quality white water rafting in a natural setting where a governmental agency could protect the scenic and isolation qualities. Since 99% of shoreline for the Chattooga's main stream in Georgia and South Carolina is federally owned, this may be the only stream in the south where these experiences may be retained, as developments change other rivers.

Management will provide a range of recreational opportunities characteristic of, and in harmony with, the nature of the individual river segments. This can be related to Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC), or the amount of human-caused change to biophysical or social components tolerable without the loss of river environment character. This is measured by indicators--various selected items serving as a sign or symptom signifying any characteristic change in the river's environment. For the Chattooga managers will seek to:

Manage WILD sections to (1) preserve the river and its immediate environment in a natural, wild, and primitive condition essentially unaltered by man's effects, and (2) provide water-oriented recreational opportunities in a primitive setting.

Manage SCENIC sections to (1) maintain and enhance the high-quality scenery, (2) provide river-oriented recreation, and (3) minimize impacts from existing roads and bridges that carry traffic across the corridor.

Manage RECREATION sections to provide (1) compatible outdoor recreational opportunities and water-oriented recreational facilities, and (2) utilize other resources and permit other activities which maintain or enhance the quality of the wildlife habitat, fisheries, scenic attraction, or recreational values.

## **B. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Forest Supervisors**

The Forest Supervisor, Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests, is responsible for administering public use and special use permits involving use of the main river or banks between Georgia and South Carolina. The Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, is responsible for West Fork administration. The Forest Supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina, is responsible for the river in North Carolina. Forests will meet annually to evaluate progress and discuss needs.

### **District Rangers**

The Andrew Pickens District Ranger is responsible for:

1. Enforcing the Code of Federal Regulations, Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders in South Carolina and at all major access points and on National Forest land immediately adjacent to the main Chattooga River in Georgia where the primary access is from the river. Major access points are:

Earl's Ford (S.C.)	Fall Creek
Thrift's Ferry	Sandy Ford (S.C.)
Burrell's Ford	Highway 76
Highway 28	Woodall Shoals

2. Providing cleanup and maintenance at developed and undeveloped sites in South Carolina and at major access points and areas adjacent to the Chattooga River in Georgia where primary access is by boat.
3. Developing use figures and administering river registration system.



4. Administering "River Ranger" program.
5. Administering floating use.
6. Administering motion picture special use permits on main river and West Fork when in conjunction with filming on main river.
7. Monitoring bacterial water quality in the main river between Georgia and South Carolina.

The Tallulah District Ranger is responsible for:

1. Enforcing the Code of Federal Regulations, Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders along the West Fork, and assisting on the main river.
2. Providing cleanup and maintenance along the West Fork.
3. Administering motion picture permits on West Fork not in conjunction with filming on the main river.
4. Providing regulation enforcement, cleanup, and maintenance on National Forest lands within Georgia that are not major floating access points or where principal access is by land.

The Highlands District Ranger is responsible for:

1. Enforcing the Code of Federal Regulations, Regional Forester's and Forest Supervisor's Prohibitions and Orders within the Nantahala National Forest.
2. Providing all administration including special use permits, cleanup and maintenance of developed and undeveloped sites in the Nantahala National Forest.

#### Other

County sheriffs have responsibility for search and rescue. Initial Forest Service coordination will be by the respective District Ranger. For more details concerning search and rescue, see Section F.

### C. PERSONNEL

Efficient administration of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River requires employees knowledgeable in (1) the river's characteristics; (2) regulations and policy; (3) floater and other user group use patterns, capabilities and desires; (4) special use permit administration; and (5) ability to administer a program designed to balance public needs for a limited river resource in the spirit of the Congressional legislation. Because of the need to schedule use administer complex special use permits on the Andrew Pickens District, the Ranger should be assisted by a qualified technician who can be expected to remain in place for a number of years.

Administration in North Carolina and Georgia will not require special personnel or scheduled manning other than law enforcement. District personnel will do needed administration in conjunction with other duties.

Chattooga River administration requires special personnel known as "River Rangers" working under the direction of the District Ranger.

#### Duties

River Rangers will provide information on river and hazard conditions, existing prohibitions and orders, and safety recommendations. They should be qualified to enforce regulations. They will float parts of the river for inspections and cleanup and will be trained to render first aid. River Rangers will be briefed on rescue procedures but will not be expected to be equipped or proficient.

They will collect data, maintain registration boxes, and code and submit forms for entry into the computer. River Rangers will lead search and rescue efforts until relieved by Rescue Squads or Forest Service personnel.

#### Qualifications and Training

River Rangers must be in good physical condition, be good swimmers, and have standard Red Cross First-aid cards. Ability to float Class III rapids is desirable, but skilled candidates may be difficult to find and may require training. Selection should favor personable applicants who can skillfully meet and talk with people and portray the "Good Host" image. A minimum of 16 hours of Forest Service law enforcement training will be required for employees with citation writing authority each year, even though they may be repeat employees. They will need to receive general information about the Chattahoochee, Nantahala, and Sumter National Forests through the District orientation period.

#### Manning

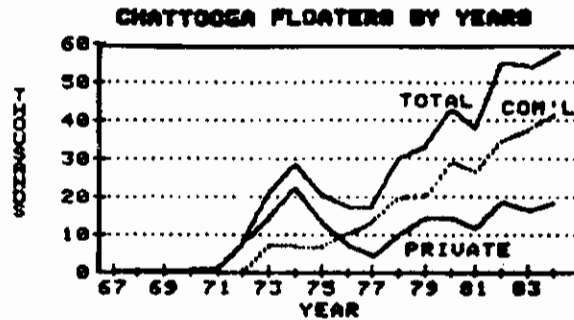
During the main use season (about May 15--September 10), River Rangers will use roving patrols on the river and visitation during peak launching times at Earl's Ford and Highway 76 Bridge to inform floaters of the regulations. Patrols will collect information on commercial trips under special use permit and information to prevent rogue outfitters.

### III. POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

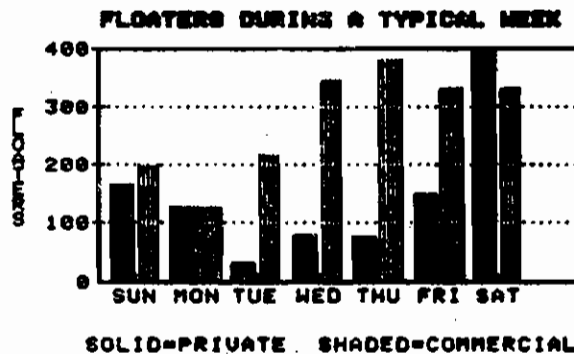
#### A. FLOATING USE

##### 1. Patterns

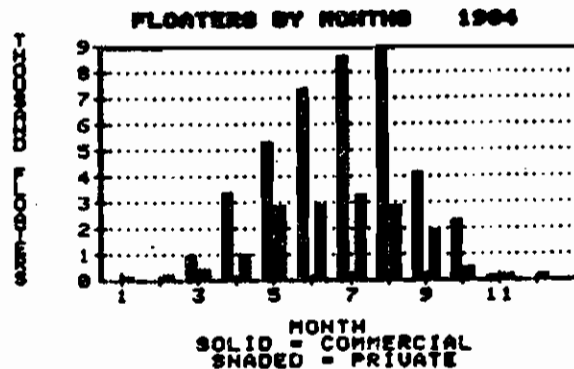
Private floating began slowly in the early 1960s. Commercial rafting began in the early 1970s, following production of a major boating movie on the river. Floating popularity grew very rapidly and is expected to increase 5-10% per year, primarily during the week rather than on weekends. As inexperienced and poorly-equipped individuals encountered very difficult white water, numerous deaths occurred during the early 1970s.



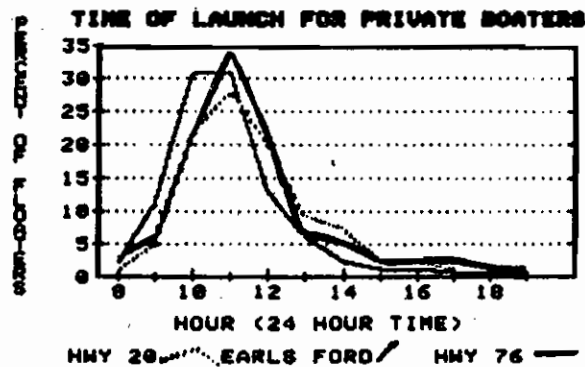
Most private floaters come on weekends or holidays. Commercial rafting and instructional clinics are permitted to carry more clients during the week than on weekends.



More out-of-season use (October to April) is developing as private and commercial floaters acquire suitable equipment which enables them to better withstand cold water and air temperatures.



Private launch times are poorly distributed, with over 2/3s of the launches occurring within a three hour period. Floaters launching in this group on heavy use weekends can expect to have numerous encounters with other floaters as trips do not move at constant speed. Some groups, especially experienced kayakers, travel rapidly, while inexperienced canoeists may spend considerable time scouting rapids. Also people stop for breaks or to empty the water from boats. Commercial launches are well distributed at present to enhance solitude. Better distribution of private launch times, either through information or regulation will be necessary to maintain a quality experience.



## 2. CARRYING CAPACITY

Carrying capacity is the ability of a resource to absorb use and can be expressed in several ways:

- a. Environmental carrying capacity is the amount and type of use permitted before unacceptable resource damage occurs, i.e., soil compaction, water pollution.
- b. Physical carrying capacity is the ability or limitation of the resource to physically meet the demand, i.e., a 90 car parking lot can hold only that many cars.
- c. Social carrying capacity is the amount of use leading to the point where a certain percentage of visitors feel the quality recreation experience declines. When overcrowding is perceived, a visitor may feel less satisfied with the experience but continue, or may stop or move to some less crowded time or location.

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) offers one method to determine and measure if these carrying capacities are being exceeded. Measurable objectives can be established and monitoring methods defined to determine the amount of change permitted before limits must be imposed on use or management actions, like hardening the site or reducing use, are undertaken.

### Environmental Carrying Capacity

The Chattooga's visual environment has not been affected by increased floating use. Vegetation, soil, rock, gravel, and sand constituting the shoreline reflect no significant damage from floating use. Water-quality monitoring shows continued improvement. Coliform bacterial counts have declined to levels found in most mountain streams with the exception of water entering via Stekoa Creek or following storms.

Water quality monitoring will continue at intervals frequent enough to detect pollution sources to assure water meets appropriate state and federal environmental standards.

It is possible that human waste deposits at heavily-used camping or lunch stops may create a problem. LAC will be established in 1985, and visual checks will monitor the situation. Should limits be exceeded, commercial users (67% of river use) will be required to provide approved portable depositories at problem sites and remove waste from the river corridor.

### Physical Carrying Capacity

Physical carrying capacity can be measured by the number of boats capable of floating down the river in a given time frame (bumper to bumper). This capacity measurement is inappropriate in order to meet the management objectives for the Wild Section. The physical capacity of support facilities (parking lots) is considered appropriate to the number of visitors to the river and maintains a semblance of seclusion in WILD sections. No expansion of support facilities is planned along the river to increase physical carrying capacity. Use will be discouraged when facilities are full.

Parking capacity is exceeded at the Highway 76 Parking Lot on major holidays when the large 90 car lot and the small Georgia lot are full, and numerous cars are parked along the highway. This creates a major safety hazard for pedestrians. Part of this congestion is caused by non-boaters who congregate at Bull Sluice, often spending two to four hours.

To keep LAC within the established capacity, permits for private groups such as paddling clubs, institutions and youth camps, as well as regular commercial permittees and instructional clinics, will be limited on holidays and some weekends.

### Social Carrying Capacity

This is the most difficult and nebulous capacity to set since recreationists have widely divergent perceptions of crowding. This plan will only address experience levels for floaters since fishing, hunting, swimming, horseback riding, and hiking are not concentrated in a manner similar to floating and do not appear to be high enough to be considered.

LAC limits will utilize data derived from previous studies to determine perceptions of visitors toward crowding, problems, reasons for using the Chattooga and attitudes about management options.

Studies reveal floaters are affected by the number of groups, people and boats encountered during a float trip. Analysis of a number of studies indicated a preference for not passing or being passed by more than 40 people in more than 3 groups occupying no more than 15 crafts. However these limits would be very difficult to obtain due to the irregular private floating patterns. Floating is greatest on weekends, with peaks at Fourth of July, Memorial Day, and Labor Day. Typical private weekday floating is only 1/6 to 1/3 of Saturday's use. Commercially guided float trip outfitters may conduct more trips during weekdays than weekends to take advantage of the unused capacity. Thus Management Direction encourages commercial use on weekdays and restricts weekend use.

#### Use/Limits

Field observations and use records indicate that river use is nearing the maximum during peak times on weekends that should be permitted under Wild and Scenic River objectives to provide challenging experiences in a natural-appearing environment where people are not the dominating factor. The following policies will be continued or implemented to ensure these objectives are met. Group size is important to solitude and congestion as large groups can take a long time clearing difficult rapids. All float trips (commercial, organized groups and private parties) will be limited to no more than 12 crafts or 40 people.

The following chart shows the daily capacity permitted on the river for various seasons and types of users. Organized groups like clubs are included in the private allocation. The limited amount of clinic use on Section III will be in addition to figures shown below and will be regulated by operating plans.

SEASON		SECTION III			SECTION IV		
May 1-Sep 30 HIGH	PRIVATE	Total	People/	Groups/	Total	People/	Groups/
		People	Hour	Hour	People	Hour	Hour
	Weekend	175	50	6	80	30	4
	Weekday	125	40	4	50	20	3
	COMMERCIAL	Weekday	Weekend		Weekday	Weekend	
		6	4		6	3	
Mar 20-Apr 30 Oct 1-Oct 31 MEDIUM	PRIVATE	Total	People/	Groups/	Total	People/	Groups/
		People	Hour	Hour	People	Hour	Hour
	Weekend	135	40	4	60	20	3
	Weekday	100	30	3	50	20	3
	COMMERCIAL	Weekday	Weekend		Weekday	Weekend	
		6	4		3	3	
Nov 1-Mar 19 LOW	PRIVATE	Total	People/	Groups/	Total	People/	Groups/
		People	Hour	Hour	People	Hour	Hour
	Weekday	60	30	3	40	20	2
	Weekend	60	30	3	40	20	2
	COMMERCIAL	Weekday	Weekend		Weekday	Weekend	
		3	3		3	3	

Current use exceeds these limits on peak weekends associated with Memorial Day, July Fourth and Labor Day. However most people coming on these holiday weekends do not expect to find solitude. No limits on private, non-organized individuals on these three weekends will be placed during this planning cycle. Should use rise above the chart's limits, steps to curtail use will be undertaken. Use on Sections I and II is not high enough to anticipate needing restrictions during the next five years.

Operating plans for commercial clinics and raft trips minimize encounters on Section III by scheduling most commercial use ahead of private launches at Earl's and Sandy Fords and after private launches at Highway 76. The same situation occurs on Section IV. Present actual commercial use is similar to the allocation shown in the chart. However the special use permits authorize additional trips that have not been utilized on weekends. Should additional Section III weekend trips be initiated, they would encounter numerous private users. New special use permits, issued when the present permits expire December 31, 1988, will permit use the lesser amount shown in the chart.

Spacing requirements between commercial raft trips, in use for the past several years (generally 45 minutes for Section III trips and 60 minutes for Section IV), will be continued and more frequent trips not permitted. Private floaters will be given information on to aid in selecting little used times and locations in order to reduce crowding voluntarily. Steps will be taken to develop good control over organized groups and limit size, number and timing of trips to reduce congestion. Permits for organized groups during peak times will be limited to encourage use on lesser used times or sections.

To stay current with user preference, the Forest Service or a cooperating institution of higher learning should use a National River Research Questionnaire about every five years to detect changes in user preferences.

### 3 PERMITS

Special use permits provide a means for offering recreational opportunities that many private individuals could not otherwise enjoy. The difficulty of safely running white water, expensive equipment needed, and high skill level needed required indicate that highly competent rafting and instructional clinics and guides are needed to accommodate a portion of the Chattooga's floaters. However, commercial trips must not be allowed to eliminate all private floating opportunities.

#### Commercial

Commercial use on the Chattooga is regulated through special use permits authorizing scheduled raft trips, canoe/kayak training clinics, shuttle service for boats and people, and incidental canoe and kayak instructional trips on an infrequent basis. All commercial uses require a special use permit. Commercial uses include activities where the permittee or any of his employees make a profit; receive a reimbursement of salary; receive rental for equipment; increase the value of his facilities, equipment, etc.; or support in any part, other programs or activities from amounts received from customers. This includes guiding or

transporting persons and providing equipment, supplies, or materials. Special use permits may be issued when the use does not conflict with Forest Service policy on outfitter and guides, river management objectives, is in accord with approved resource plans, provides a needed public service, and assists in the management and utilization of National Forest resources.

An operation is not commercial if there is a bona fide sharing of expenses and no fee, charge, or other compensation is collected from individual participants in excess of expenses incurred. Nonprofit status under Internal Revenue Service or Postal regulations does not determine whether a trip arranged by an organization is non-commercial. The Forest Service is not obligated to issue a permit or accommodate a desire of an individual applicant. Both temporary or transient land occupancy and annual renewable special use permits may be granted. Special use permit issuance will not establish nor set up a system of area allocation or permanence of operation which might deny use by others. The following items apply to special use permits:

- a. The Andrew Pickens District has authority to issue temporary or transient land occupancy special use permits with standard clauses specifying the limited areas and time periods.
- b. Permittees must complete and submit the Chattooga River registration forms.
- c. Permittees will provide an annual operating plan which shows their operational details.
- d. Public safety is a major concern of the Forest Service. The permit places a responsibility on the permittee to see that "his employees and patrons operate boats and vehicles in a safe and reasonable manner." Failure to comply with permit requirements may be grounds for revoking the permit.
- e. The permittee must comply with State and Federal laws and regulations relating to use of the National Forest lands and waters and assumes full responsibility for employees' conduct and client's actions.
- f. All permittees will be required to carry liability insurance "where public liability might exist."
- g. Permittees shall carry out all of their litter and garbage.
- h. No organized races will be allowed on the river.
- i. Special use permits for commercial operations will require approval of operating plans limiting launch times and locations, lunch times and locations, and timing between trips at various water levels to minimize encounters.



- j. No more than three commercially guided float (raft) trip operations will be permitted. The following conditions apply to these raft permits:
1. Rafts refer to the generally accepted craft in use for the last decade, holding four to six people, that are over four feet wide and not to the newly-developed inflatable kayaks.
  2. Raft trips will follow an operating plan designed to reduce encounters between trips and private floaters.
- k. No more than five regular commercial training clinics (canoe and kayak) will be permitted. These are for the training of individuals in specific white water skills, primarily on short river segments and are not intended as guided float trips employing rafts.
1. Clinics will be restricted to the portion of river above the Highway 76 Bridge.
  2. A limited number of clinics may be authorized by the operating plan to use the newly designed one or two person inflatable crafts (inflatable canoe/kayak). These will only be permitted on weekdays and above Sandy Ford. Their use will only be a percentage of the entire trip, as they are intended to provide a training opportunity for some members of the clinic who lack the skill to safely handle a hard shell canoe or kayak. However these are not to become float trips dominated by inflatables.
  3. Priority and temporary use will be assigned for each company annually and is subject to change.
  4. Total number of clinics by all companies combined will not exceed two clinics per section/day on weekend days.
1. A single commercial shuttle service can adequately handle the limited number of private floaters requiring shuttle service that can be permitted to use the river.

#### Non-commercial

Special use permits may with the fee waived be issued to organized groups when they are not expected to conflict with other users. Groups may be considered organized which generally include all or part of, but not limited to, the following:

- Have a charter or is a branch of a chartered organization.
- Have written by-laws/guidelines, etc.
- Have established membership lists.
- Have elected officers.
- Are not necessarily limited by numbers of people.
- Are bonded together by common interest.

Forest Service policy requires organized groups on the river to secure permits in order to avoid crowding. Organized groups must notify the Ranger's Office in advance of their trip by submitting a brief operating plan showing date, time of arrival and departure, section, number, and type craft expected. The Ranger District will evaluate the river's ability to carry the trip without adversely impacting other users. The trip may be approved or denied, or approved with modification (time or location) to reduce conflicts. Organized group use without an approved permit is in violation. Each organized group must also complete and submit a Chattooga River registration form at the time of launch.

#### Individual Permits

Self registration stations at West Fork, Highway 28, Earl's Ford, Highway 76, and Woodall Shoals provide forms needed before parties can legally run the Chattooga. Floaters beginning trips at locations without registration stations must deposit a registration slip at one of these stations. Signing this form commits the group to follow Forest Service regulations, and the form serves as the input document for computer analysis of floating trends. (See Appendix.)

#### 4. MONITORING

Administrators will be alert to use patterns to see how actual floating use compares with planned use and to minimize conflicts and congestion. This will also evaluate new trends in equipment that could change longstanding practices.

A computer simulation model is being refined with capacity to predict contacts (passing or being passed by) between groups based on information from the daily user permit form. The model format will be evaluated for compatibility with the Forest Service Data General System. If compatible, this would allow updating printouts and evaluation with visual observations derived while floating the river.

Monitoring every other year will evaluate use. Should contacts exceed management objectives, use limitations may be imposed to protect the experience and provide the desired isolation-seclusion type experience.

#### 5. REGULATIONS

A number of regulations are in effect on the river. Some are shown in Appendix E. Floating north of Highway 28 Bridge is prohibited through a condition of the floater permit under 36 CFR 261.77 (c).

Safety requirements were instituted in 1975 following several years with numerous fatalities and accidents to floaters requiring frequent search and rescue efforts. Accidents are now infrequent, averaging one fatality every other year.

## B. CAMPING AND PICNICKING

Recreational developments within the Chattooga Corridor are limited. Most overnight camping occurs at Federal, State, and County campgrounds from 5 to 20 miles from the river, and the visitors drive to the river for the day. No developed picnic areas exist in the corridor though visitors are welcome to sit on a rock or the grass and enjoy the scenery while eating.

Very few boaters carry camping gear on the river due to the difficulty of the rapids and amount of water entering boats. However, the rafting companies are developing a limited number of overnight trips. Usually the camping gear is carried by others over land to the camping site rather than down river.

Considerable backpack camping takes place, primarily in the area north of Highway 28 where floating is prohibited. At one time resource damage in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness along the Chattooga River was very evident. This consisted of mutilated trees, large bare spots, and large fire rings. However, better administration by Wilderness Rangers and shifts in use have greatly improved this situation.

The Burrell's Ford camping area provides tables, water, campsites, and toilets. This area is closed to vehicular access and is reached by a 350 yard foot trail.

The only "primitive" camping areas open to vehicular access are Long Bottom Ford on the main river and West Fork in Georgia on the West Fork. Facilities provided include vehicle control barriers, bulletin boards, trash containers, and toilets.

Numerous designated camping areas along the river are marked with small signs. Visitors traveling by foot or boat may elect to camp in a designated site or may select an undesignated site located more than one-fourth mile from a road, 50 feet from the river or a tributary stream, or 50 feet from a hiking or horse trail. Individuals desiring to camp at sites not designated or meeting these criteria must apply for a free permit from the Ranger's Office. This will be granted unless problems are foreseen.

Permanent toilets will not be constructed within WILD sections of the river corridor. If monitoring determines significant health or visual problems develop at outfitter and clinic overnight campsites, outfitters will be required to provide containers and remove their waste to an approved disposal.

Personnel will continue to monitor remote campsites. Should resource damage be unacceptable, closure will be employed.

### C. FISHING

The Chattooga is considered to be the best trout stream in South Carolina and one of the best in Georgia. It has the size and volume to permit quality fly fishing in a very attractive setting. This is especially true on the undeveloped section north of the Highway 28 Bridge where floating use is not permitted to provide quality trout fishing. The upper portion has colder water that is more conducive to natural regeneration. Fishing pressure, especially near the bridges where access is good, is heavier than natural reproduction can replace. These areas are stocked by the states using hatchery grown trout.

Fish stocking from wheeled vehicles will be permitted at Burrell's Ford Bridge and Campground, Nicholson Field Road in Georgia, Ridley Field, Highway 28 Bridge, Long Bottom Ford, and Bull Pen Bridge on the main river and at locations along the West Fork. Helicopter stocking will be permitted in inaccessible areas in an effort to distribute fish. However, helicopter stocking in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness (between Bull Pen and Burrell's Ford Bridges) is prohibited.

A joint Forest Service/ State Wildlife department study is needed to see if measures to enhance fisheries are needed following direction provided by the Wild and River Act.

### D. WILDLIFE

Numerous species of wildlife make their homes in the Chattooga River Corridor. Hunting pressure is not heavy, primarily due to the rugged terrain and lack of timber harvesting needed to increase browse. Little conflict exists between hunting and other recreational uses since hunting occurs at times of the year when fewer floaters are present. The only direct wildlife habitat management takes place in the recreational section near Highway 28 which contains several large fields that were cultivated when in private ownership.

Mechanized cultivation of these old fields may be done to maintain landscape variety, provide openings and trees and shrubs beneficial to wildlife habitat, and provide a seed source for wildlife habitat work.

### E. TRAILS

Hiking trails along and near the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River and the Ellicott Rock Wilderness provide a very popular system for fishermen, backpackers, and day users. This inventory lists trails beginning at the headwaters and progressing downstream. Guidelines for trail management and maintenance are found in the "Trails South" booklet.

Trails are located away from the river along much of the distance to reduce encounters with floaters, hikers, and fishermen in an effort to provide more solitude.

Parallel trails on both sides of the river will not be developed along any portion of the river to minimize the impact of hikers on the river.

### Existing

Chattooga River Loop Trail (NC)--A .5 mile loop beginning at the Chattooga Parking Lot and ending at the Bull Pen Bridge.

Chattooga River Trail (NC)--Beginning at Bull Pen Bridge, extends 1.0 mile northward along the river's west bank. An additional 2 miles remain to be built.

Ellicott Rock Trail (NC)--Begins at Bull Pen Road and runs 3.5 miles southwest to a ford 50 yards above Ellicott Rock and extends 3.5 miles west to Road 441 near Scotsman's Creek.

Chattooga River Trail (SC, GA)--Begins at North Carolina/South Carolina line and runs 17.3 miles downstream to the Highway 28 Bridge, crosses the Chattooga and runs another 20.0 miles to the Highway 76 Bridge. Portions of the Bartram and Foothills Trails also follow the Chattooga Trail. The trail is complete except for a footbridge across the West Fork in Georgia.

The East Fork Trail (SC)--Begins at the Chattooga Picnic Area and descends 2.5 miles to the river. This trail receives very heavy use, especially the first .25 mile. A loop in the trail crossing a bridge carries part of the traffic back to the picnic area.

The Burrell's Ford Fisherman Trail (SC)--The 1.5 miles portion of the Foothills Trail lying along the river in use before the campground was constructed. This trail is not shown on maps or signed on the ground in an effort to route hikers on the Chattooga Trail away from the river at this point to reduce congestion.

Spoonauger Trail (SC)--Beginning at Chattooga River Trail and extending .25 mile to Spoonauger Falls.

King Creek Trail (SC)--Beginning at Burrell's Ford Campground and extending .5 mile to King Creek Falls.

Foothills National Recreation Trail (SC)--Enters river corridor at Licklog Creek and extends 8.7 miles to Medlin Ridge where it leaves the corridor and heads to Highway 107. Much of this trail follows the Chattooga Trail.

Bartram National Recreation Trail (GA)--Enters river corridor at Dick's Creek and extends 10 mile to Highway 28 following the same right-of-way as the Chattooga River Trail.

Earl's Ford (SC) - Portage (SC)--A major portage trail beginning at the parking lot and extending 450 yards to river.

The Sandy Ford Portage Trail (SC)--A minor portage trail extends from the Sandy Ford Road 500 yards to the river.

The Fall Creek Portage Trail (SC)--A newly-completed major portage trail extending from Road 769 about 0.5 mile to the river.

Dick's Creek Trail (GA)--Extends from Road 9 about 0.5 mile to the river.

Licklog Trail (GA)--Extends from the Bartram Trail 0.1 mile to Dick's Creek Falls.

The Tilly Branch or Thrift Ferry Trail (SC)--A major portage trail extending from the end of Road 795 about 500 yards to the river.

The Highway 76 Portage Trail (SC)--A major portage trail surfaced with asphalt beginning at the Highway 76 Parking Lot and Information Station and extending 200 yards to the river for boater access. An unpaved spur leads to Bull Sluice rapid.

Sutton Hole Trail (GA)--Extends from Road 290-A about 0.3 mile to the river.

Woodall Shoals Portage (SC)--A major portage trail beginning at Woodall Shoals Parking Lot and extending 330 yards to the river.

Camp Creek Trail (GA)--Extends from Road 511 about 0.4 mile to the river.

Raven Rock Trail (GA)--Extends from Road 511B about 0.8 mile to the river.

Opossum Creek Trail (SC)--Begins at Road 755 and descends for 1.5 miles to the river. This is a non-standard trail, the result of early logging skid trails and roads. Portions are eroding heavily. Erosion control is needed, but measures to increase use such as signing or including on maps should be avoided to prevent enticing spectators into the Five Falls area.

Three Forks Trail (GA)--Begins at Teague Gap on the Overflow Road and runs 2 miles to the Three Forks Area of the West Fork.

#### FUTURE

Horse Trail (SC and GA)--Over the last 10-15 years, horse owners have developed an unofficial network of trails as they sought a location to ride. Much of the use originates at the undeveloped Sandy Ford Campsite along Whetstone Road in South Carolina. Riders cross the Chattooga at Earl's Ford and Sandy Ford. Approximately 7 miles exist in Georgia and about 14 miles exist in South Carolina. Approximately 1/4 of this network is within the Chattooga River Corridor.

The primary areas of conflict are at Earl's Ford where horses must cross among numerous swimmers and boaters and in Georgia where horses are sometimes ridden along the Bartram and Chattooga hiking Trails.

A study will be made to determine compatibility of horse trails with existing Wild and Scenic River uses within the River Corridor during FY 86. Closure regulations, signing, barriers, and discussions with riding groups will be used to reduce conflicts. No facilities for horse users (stalls, corrals, unloading ramps, or water systems) will be permitted within the corridor. Animals must be tethered away from trees to avoid compaction of soil around trees and debarking of trees.

These horse trails will be analyzed for possible placement on the trail system. Trail planning to determine optimum location and maintenance needs will be undertaken.

#### F. SEARCH AND RESCUE

Local sheriff departments and rescue squads have basic responsibility for search and rescue. District personnel will maintain close contact with these organizations and cooperate in search and rescue efforts.

Employees, upon being notified of lost or injured persons or accidents, will contact the appropriate sheriff's department, rescue squad, and District Ranger's Office. A River Ranger will lead search and rescue efforts until the sheriff's department or rescue squad arrives, or until relieved by other Forest Service personnel. Outfitters and experienced private boaters provide valuable assistance in rescue operations. This quick assistance prevents numerous tragedies as several hours are usually needed to get word to a rescue squad and for them to reach the remote location.

A Forest representative will accompany search and rescue parties when directed by District Ranger. Over the years, rescue squads have developed a policy to search only during daylight hours unless there is a known injury, or the missing individual(s) is under 16 years of age or elderly or severe weather is anticipated. Normally, the full scale search will start the following day, as most lost persons manage to find the way out by this time. For other emergency operations, see FSM 1590.

#### G. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND VISITOR PROTECTION

Numerous private vehicles have been broken into or vandalized while parked at access areas. Enforcing laws to protect visitors on National Forest land is the sheriff department's responsibility.

Forest Service personnel will encourage sheriffs to take an active role in visitor protection. Additional or expanded Co-op Law Enforcement Programs will be investigated. Forest Service patrols will check for illegal activities and provide information to sheriffs and assistance to people who are victimized. Messages to alert visitors to safeguard their possessions will be included on bulletin boards and in publications.

Commercial river trips operating illegally without necessary special use permits are known as "Rogue" outfitters. These frequently run substandard trips and interfere with scheduled trips by other commercial special use permittees and organized groups as well as private floaters.

The Forest Service will continue to investigate reports of rogue outfitters and prosecute when sufficient evidence is obtained.

#### H. SAFETY

The Chattooga has very dangerous white water for inexperienced or poorly-equipped floaters. Numerous fatalities occurred during the early 1970s before safety programs were implemented. The Regional Forester prescribed equipment needed to float certain sections, and this is made a condition of floating when trip leaders complete a self-registration slip before starting their trip. (See Appendix.)

Self-registration facilities are on the West Fork, S.C. Highway 28, Earl's Ford, Highway 76, and Woodall Shoals. Persons launching at other locations must use one of these registration facilities.

Some people launch or retrieve boats at the Highway 76 Bridge site in Georgia. They take up parking space needed by hikers at this important trailhead and miss the Forest Service information displays and Forest Service personnel at the main parking and launch area across the river. After the abandoned steel truss bridge is gone, a regulation should be prepared to require all floaters to use the South Carolina side of the river. This will expose them to floater information, regulations, River Rangers, and make adequate parking available for hikers at the Chattooga trailhead.

Forest Service employees and volunteers will observe all required safety conditions of use in their day-to-day administration of the river.

The Andrew Pickens District will complete a form for all serious injuries reported on the main river in Georgia and South Carolina. The Highlands Ranger and the Tallulah Ranger will be responsible for reports in North Carolina and on the West Fork, respectively. The report will include name of person killed, injured, or lost (if possible); residence; age; when killed, injured, or lost; witnesses (if any); type of equipment (if applicable); time and date of incident; violation of regulations (if any); and a short narrative of incident.

#### I. INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

The Chattooga River Information Service program will give the public:

- A general idea of the Wild and Scenic River System's purpose, management, and protection.
- Recreational information on and near the river.
- An understanding for personal safety, equipment needs, regulations and availability of commercial services, proper care of the river's unique environment, and the "No Trace Ethic."
- Information on scenic, geologic, and historical features of the area.



Many of these messages are contained on a map showing river floating, trail system, access points, and primitive campsites.

Bulletin boards provide information at the following major access points: Bull Pen, Burrell's Ford, S.C. Highway 28 lot in Georgia, Highway 28 access area in S.C., Earl's Ford, U.S. Highway 76, and Woodall Shoals. Bulletin boards at boating access points will provide as a minimum, the regulations, emergency phone numbers, and recommended safety precautions.

An information site at the Highway 76 parking area provides exhibits and toilets. Information panels cover: Wild and Scenic River rules and regulations; safety recommendations; locations of other recreational opportunities in the surrounding area; and general information about the National Forests in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. A large scale four color map printed on waterproof plastic covers most of the visitors' questions. A River Ranger is on duty at Highway 76 during high use periods providing an opportunity for the public to obtain additional information. Guides on commercial trips provide information and interpretation of river features to clients on trips.

#### J. VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers offer opportunities to extend services to the public that would be unavailable due to shortage of funds. Efforts will continue to involve individuals, organizations, and outfitters in activities such as trail maintenance, cleanup, and information dissemination. Volunteers can assist in disseminating and encouraging low impact use practices and provide a "Good Host" image.

#### K. INTERPRETATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

Forest Service policy permits non-profit associations to develop a partnership relationship between Forest Service and interested citizens. An association operates under direction of a Board of Directors that makes proposals to the Forest Service for approval. Profits from sale of approved items (publications, craft items, patches, etc.) are used to fund National Forest activities. Forest Service buildings and employees may be used to make sales.

The Andrew Pickens Ranger District will investigate feasibility of an association to further river and District programs and submit a report to the Forest Supervisors.

#### L. COOPERATION

Numerous organizations and agencies cooperate with the Forest Service concerning the river and adjacent lands. The situation is running smoothly and problems are not foreseen.

These include:

- County Councils in S.C., Ga., and N.C.
- Game and Fish Commissions in S.C., Ga., and N.C.
- Sheriffs Departments in S.C., Ga., and N.C.
- State Highway Departments in S.C. and Ga.
- Office of Emergency Preparedness (Rescue Squad) in S.C., Ga. and N.C.
- Departments of Health and Environmental Control in S.C., Ga., and N.C.
- Georgia Power Company with Lake Tugaloo.

#### M. ACQUISITION

Acquiring fee simple title to all lands within the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River boundary is in the public interest. Condemnation of land is prohibited by the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

Land acquisition programs have been very successful in obtaining river frontage from willing sellers or through exchange. Acquisition of frontage on the main river in Georgia is complete, and only a few hundred feet remain in South Carolina. Several miles of private frontage remain in both North Carolina and on the West Fork in Georgia. Structures on acquired lands will continue to be removed and natural conditions restored. The Forest Service should continue to acquire in fee, lands identified in the Acquisition Plan on a willing seller basis. Acquire rights or ownership to a takeout point on Lake Tugaloo to permit upgrading road and parking facilities to provide greater safety while maintaining traditional uses. Scenic easements will be considered only when extensive negotiations indicate that acquisition to prevent impairment of the scenic quality or basic resource by fee simple title is impossible.

#### N. MAINTENANCE AND CLEANUP

Mechanized equipment will be permitted for Forest Service programs such as trail maintenance, wildlife habitat improvement, fire management, and recreation administration, where equipment use will not seriously interfere with recreational experiences and significant savings in time or funds are expected or equipment is the only way feasible to accomplish the task. Use will be scheduled to minimize conflicts by selecting low-use dates or time of day.

Vehicular access points have solid-waste disposal containers and regularly scheduled pick ups. Access points are cleaned as listed on the following chart. Cleanup during off-season will be as needed.

A "pack it in--pack it out" policy will be encouraged for all use inside the corridor. Outfitters assist in keeping the river clean, and Forest Service crews check areas accessible by foot and float inaccessible areas along the river to keep them clean.

CLEANUP SCHEDULE  
SEASON  
May 15 - September 15

Area	Responsibility			Once Per Week	Twice Per Use Season
	GA	SC	NC		
Bull Pen			X	X	
Ellicott Rock		X			X
Burrell's Ford Area		X		X	
Nicholson Fields		X			X
Hwy. 28 Bridge & Vicinity		X		X	
West Fork					
Three Forks	X				X
Overflow Bridge	X			X	
Warwoman Bridge	X			X	
Remainder of W. Fork	X			X	
Ridley Field Parking Lot		X		X	
Hwy. 28 Parking Lot		X		X	
Long Bottom Ford		X		X	
Earl's Ford (SC side)		X		X	
Earl's Ford (GA side)	X				X
Dick's Creek Falls		X			X
Sandy Ford (GA)	X				X
Sandy Ford (SC)		X			X
Lick Fork		X			X
Fall Creek		X			X
Thrift's Ferry		X			X
Hwy. 76, Bull Sluice and Bridge		X		X	
Sutton Hole		X			X
Woodall Shoals		X		X	
Raven Rock & Mouth of					
Long Creek		X			X
Camp Creek		X			X
All other primitive camp sites accessible by boat		X			X

0. ACCESS

Wild and Scenic River legislation seeks primarily to provide challenging experiences where visitors rely on their own strength and skill to visit the river on its own terms rather than through man's modifications. The management plans considered by Congress called for closing most roads at the corridor boundary to provide an experience different from most National Forest Lands. Exceptions included major roads such as Highway 76 and Bull Pen along with roads in the recreation section near Highway 28.

To date most roads have been closed at the corridor boundary. Prescriptive rights have blocked closure at Earl's and Sandy Fords in Georgia. However, efforts should continue to reduce access at these points. Gates will be maintained at a limited number of areas where access is needed for emergency programs, wildlife habitat management, fish stocking, and cleanup maintained.

**P. BOUNDARY**

The corridor is marked with intervisible four inch paint bands 1/2 way around trees facing away from the river corridor. Paint color will be No. 15102 or 25102 Blue in GSA Catalog Item 8010-00-680-0144 for Federal Standard No. 595a.

A boundary modification is needed in the vicinity of Warwoman Creek/Earl's Ford in Georgia to bring the corridor to approximately 1/4 mile from the river. Parking facilities are needed outside the corridor.

**Q. SIGNS**

Chattooga portal signs have been repeated targets of vandalism and will not be reinstalled unless local acceptance is anticipated. Words cut into large rocks with a sandblaster will continue to be used for trail signs at high vandalism areas.

Boaters sometimes have difficulty recognizing takeout points. Rustic locust posts (10-12 inches in diameter) with the location's name routed into a flattened side with unpainted letters should be maintained at Earl's Ford, Sandy Ford, Fall Creek, and Thrift Ferry.

**R. ABANDONED HIGHWAY 76 STEEL BRIDGE**

This bridge carried traffic from the early 1900s until replaced by a concrete bridge 50 yards downstream in 1949 when use and maintenance stopped. The wood decking rotted away, and the bridge is now a negative visual impact to all users in the area.

The bridge is also a potential safety hazard, as young people climb on the truss work 40 or more feet above the water. The Development Plan published in the Federal Register called for its removal. This should be carried out as soon as possible using Forest Service funding or a volunteer military unit following the bridge removal plan.

**S. OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Timber--Timber will be administered for recreation, watershed protection, aesthetic, and wildlife values. Some cutting of timber may occur in the construction of trails for safety of users or for scenic improvement.

Insects - Disease--Proposals to control insect outbreaks must be developed through an Environmental Analysis approved by the Forest Supervisor.

Fire and Other Emergencies--Fires will be controlled under regular suppression policy. Within the river corridor, the District Rangers may approve use of power saw, truck-mounted and portable pumps, helicopters, aerial tankers, tractor-plows, bulldozers (except within the Ellicott Rock Wilderness that requires Regional approval), and vehicles used by search and rescue organizations. The Rangers will use the method of fire control which results in the least amount of environmental damage while adequate to control the fire.

Incendiary activity is high along Highway 28. Prescribed burning has been used since the late 1970s to reduce fuel loads to make fire control more practical and reduce the chances of hot fires that kill the overstory. These prescribed fires have been confined to the side of Russell Mountain away from the Chattooga River. This practice should be continued until managers feel that it is no longer needed.

Special Uses--Permits for new powerlines and roads will be restricted to recreation sections of the river. No occupancy permits will be issued within the river corridor.

Applications for filming permits will be evaluated against their impacts to visitors and the river environments. The Andrew Pickens District will be responsible for filming permits on the main river between Georgia and South Carolina. Should the filming also include scenes on the West Fork, South Carolina will also administer them. Permits involving only West Fork locations will be handled by the Tallulah. Filming in North Carolina will be handled by the Highlands District. Film companies will not use motorized equipment including vehicles, generators, or helicopters in WILD sections. They may only use this equipment in SCENIC sections where the public may use motorized equipment such as parking lots and roads. Electrical cables from generators may be laid to filming sites inside the river corridor.

Minerals--Mineral and energy leasing will require special stipulations which may preclude surface occupancy. Removal of sand or gravel is not permitted on National Forest lands within the river boundary. There are no outstanding mineral rights.

Water Quality--An approved water quality monitoring plan has been prepared. The river has generally moderate to high water quality. Occasional past water pollution is indicated by high coliform counts entering via Stekoa Creek from Georgia.

Coliform levels in Stekoa Creek have greatly declined since the waste water treatment plant in Clayton, Georgia, was improved. Diverse pollution sources including livestock, septic tanks, wildlife, recreation, and community waste disposal systems may continue to infrequently cause coliform levels to exceed water contact standards. Water monitoring will continue since there are potential sources of pollution within the Chattooga watershed which could influence human health.

Russell House--This large, frame farm house replaced an earlier house burned by the Union Army. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. During the early 1970s the house and ten outbuildings served as a visitor center. However, its poor location on Highway 28 (away from the large volume of visitors on Highway 76) resulted in very low visitation, and the project was abandoned.

The Forest Service will continue to seek a third party willing to expend the considerable funds needed to restore and maintain the facility, in return for use of the property under special use permit in a way compatible with the overall good for the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River.

#### **T. RESEARCH**

Studies to evaluate user perceptions and desires should be encouraged when they can be conducted without detracting from the recreation experience. The Forest Service will cooperate with a university where potential exists to obtain information needed for river management. Research needs include:

1. Software programs to enable running the computer simulation model on Forest Service computers.
2. An economic analysis study to determine the Chattooga's contribution to the local economy.

# APPENDIX A. DEVELOPMENT PLAN - SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>DEVELOPED</u> <u>SITE</u>	<u>PARKING</u> <u>LOT</u>	<u>LAUNCH</u> <u>SITE</u>	<u>TRAIL</u>	<u>ACCESS</u> <u>ROAD</u>
Bull Pen	NC	-	I	-	I	-
Burrell's Ford	SC	C	C	-	C	C
Burrell's Ford	GA	-	C	-	-	-
Ridley Field (1)	SC	-	C	-	C	-
Russell Fields	SC	D	C	C	-	-
Earl's Ford	SC	D	C	C	C	C
Earl's Ford	GA	-	I	-	I	I
Dick's Creek	GA	-	D	-	C	-
Sandy Ford (2)	SC	-	C	C	C	C
Sandy Ford	GA	-	I	-	I	I
Buckeye Branch	GA	-	-	-	D	-
Licklog	GA	-	C	D	C	C
Highway 76	SC	D	C	C	C	-
Highway 76	GA	-	I	D	-	-
Sutton Hole	GA	-	I	-	C	P
Woodall Shoals	SC	-	C	C	C	C
Cliff Creek	GA	-	D	-	D	-
Daniel's Creek	GA	-	-	-	C	P
Camp Creek	GA	-	C	C	C	C
Overflow Bridge	GA	-	D	D	-	C
West Fork (3)	GA	C	C	C	-	C
Tugaloo Lake (3)	SC	I	P	P	-	P

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Not planned  
C Complete  
I Incomplete  
D Dropped  
P Primitive

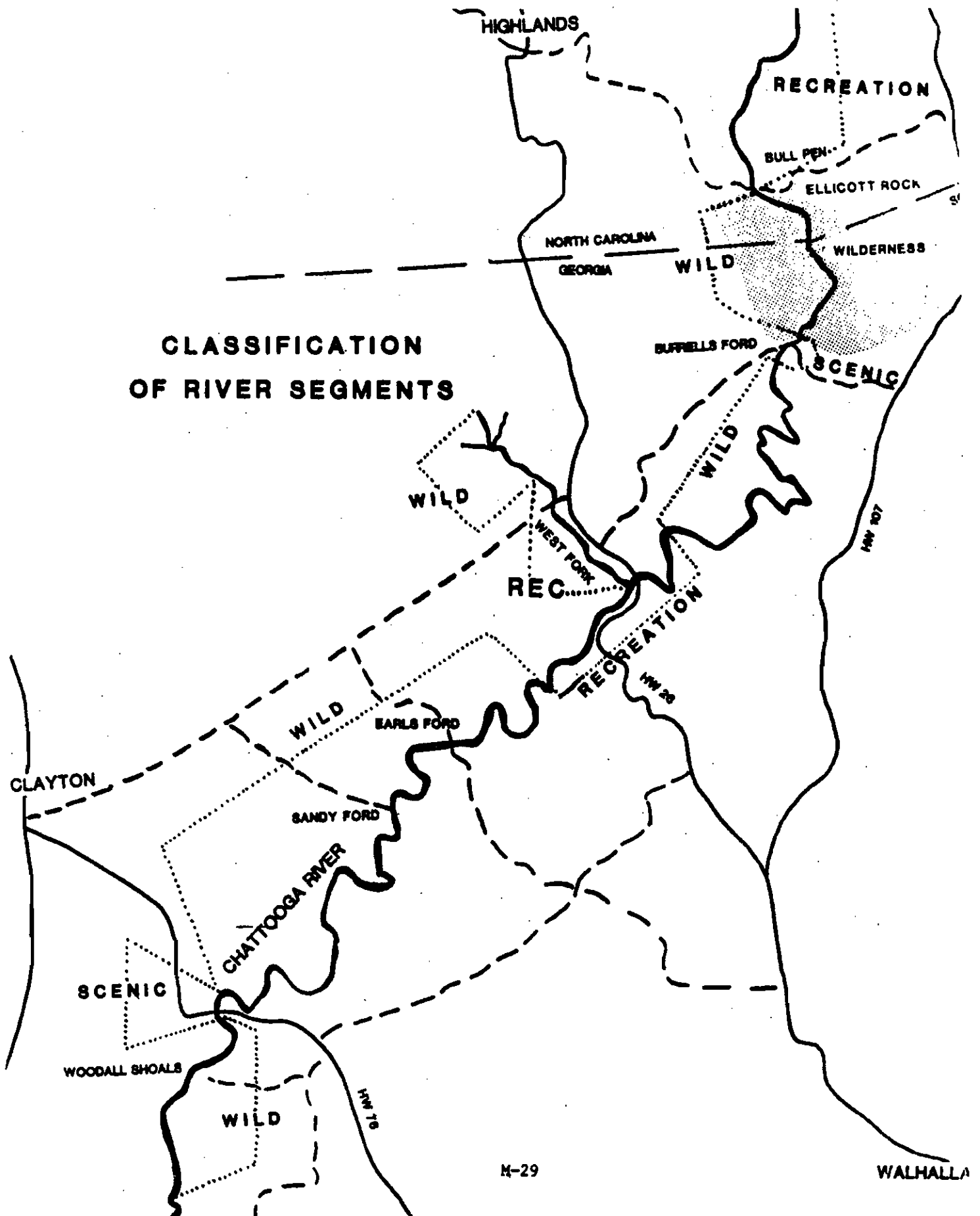
(1 added 1976)  
(2 added 1976)  
(3 added 1984)

# APPENDIX B. JOB LIST

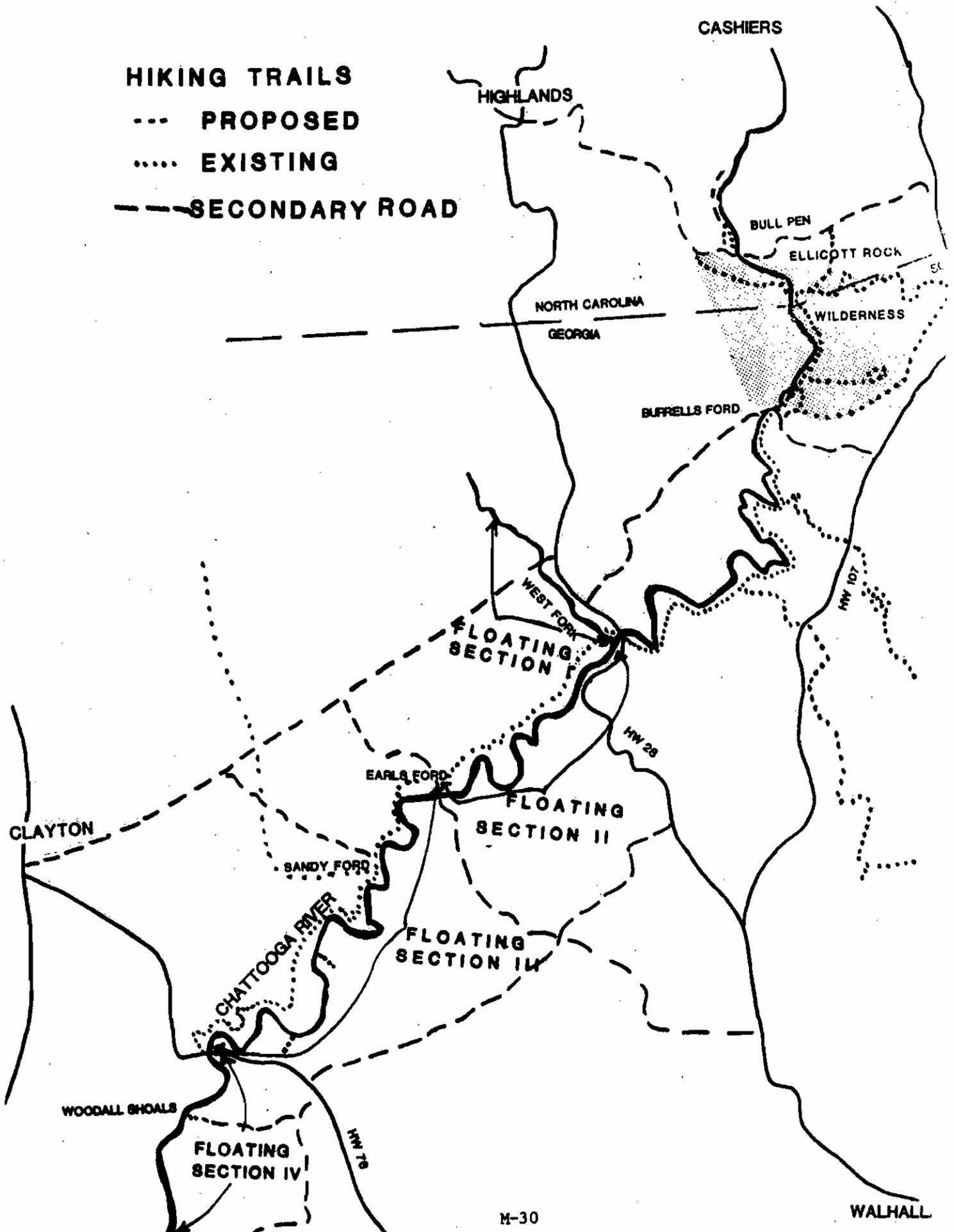
PROJECT	Responsibility	Cost	Priority
<b>Non-recurrent Projects</b>			
Prepare Highway 76 Bridge Removal Plan	SC	-	1
Remove Highway 76 Bridge	SC	\$13,000	3
Remove block building on West Fork	GA	1,000	3
Treat Kudsu at Highway 76 Parking Lot	SC	500	2
Update simulation model	SC	1,000	2
Test simulation model	SC	500	2
Analyze horse trail network	SC & GA	2,000	1
Relocate horse trail from Earl's Ford	SC & GA	5,000	1
Finalize carrying capacity study	SC	3,000	2
Investigate Interpretative Association	SC	-	2
Complete Chattooga Trail north of Bull Pen	NC	10,000	4
Complete Chattooga Trail south of Bull Pen	NC	8,000	3
Complete boundary posting HW 28--Burrel's Ford	SC	2,000	4
Plan Tugeloo Lake Access	SC	8,000	1
Complete Tugeloo Lake Access	SC	125,000	3
Coordinate Tugeloo Road with County	SC	-	2
Plan & install barriers at Long Bottom Ford	SC	2,000	3
Construct parking lots at Sandy & Earl's Fords	GA	22,000	2
Cooperative FS/States fisheries study	SC & GA	3,000	2
<b>Recurrent Projects</b>			
Monitor impact of camping by floaters	SC	1,000	2
Administer private floating	SC	10,000	1
Administer commercial floating	SC	6,000	1
Administer registration system	SC	5,000	1
Cleanup, maintenance, main river, facilities	SC	23,000	1
Cleanup, maintenance, West Fork	GA	2,000	2
Cleanup, maintenance, river in NC.	NC	1,500	2
Administer filming permits	SC (GA)	1,000	2
Assist in search and rescue	SC	500	1
Maintain 33 miles of foot trails	SC	14,000	2
Maintain 23 miles of foot trails	GA	6,000	2
Maintain 5 miles of foot trails	NC	1,000	2
Recruit & supervise volunteers	SC	1,000	2
Acquire land when available	All	-	1
Work to close Earl's and Sandy Ford Roads	GA	2,000	1
Monitor water Quality	SC	4,000	2
Maintain Wildlife habitat projects	SC	4,000	2
Maintain wildlife habitat projects	GA	600	2
Coordinate helicopter-fish stocking	SC	800	2
Annual FS meeting to evaluate management needs	All	800	1



# CLASSIFICATION OF RIVER SEGMENTS



**HIKING TRAILS**  
--- **PROPOSED**  
.... **EXISTING**  
--- **SECONDARY ROAD**



# APPENDIX E

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

Revised Order No. 33

Date: May 10, 1980

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), it is hereby ordered that the prohibitions hereinafter set forth apply to the area known as the CHATTOOGA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CORRIDOR on the Sumter and Chattahoochee National Forests, which area is depicted on the map below.

The following prohibited acts as set forth in 36 CFR 261.52 are hereby applied to the above described area:

Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire within 50 feet of the Chattooga River or any of its tributaries or within one quarter mile of any roadway (36 CFR 261.52(a)).

Exception: Persons occupying areas designated for camping and posted with an official sign. (36 CFR 261.50(e)(1))

The following prohibited acts as set forth in 36 CFR 261.58 are hereby applied to the above described area:

Camping within 50 feet of the Chattooga River or any of its tributaries or within 50 feet of a maintained trail or within one quarter mile of any roadway. (36 CFR 261.58(e))

Exception: Persons occupying areas designated for camping and posted with an official sign, (36 CFR 261.50(e)(1))

Being publicly nude. (36 CFR 261.58(j))

Violation of any of the prohibitions set forth above is prohibited by the provisions of the regulation cited, and under 16 U.S.C. 551 and 7 U.S.C. 1101(f), any such violation is subject to punishment by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment of not more than six (6) months, or both.

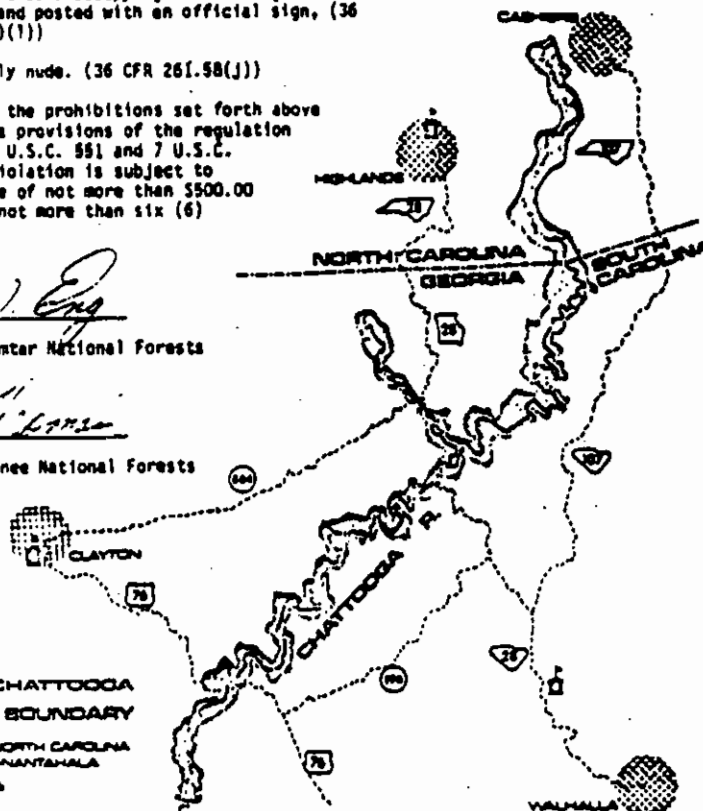
*Richard W. Eng*  
Forest Supervisor  
Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

*John P. [Signature]*  
Forest Supervisor  
Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forests

WILD AND SCENIC CHATTOOGA  
RIVER & CORRIDOR BOUNDARY

SOUTH CAROLINA-GEORGIA-NORTH CAROLINA  
SUMTER-CHATTAHOOCHEE-NANTAHALA

National Forest



(are of its users. Violation of any term or condition of such a permit is prohibited.

(42 FR 31789, June 23, 1977)

§ 261.76 Regulations applicable to Region 8, Pacific Northwest Region, as defined in § 200.2. (Reserved)

§ 261.77 Prohibitions in Region 8, Southern Region.

(a) Using or occupying any area of the Sumter National Forest or the Chattahoochee National Forest abutting the Chattooga River for the purpose of entering or going upon the River in, on, or upon any floatable object or craft of every kind or description, unless authorized by permit obtained through registration at Forest Service Registration Stations abutting the Chattooga River located at Highway 28, Low-Water Bridge, Earl's Ford, Sandy Ford, Highway 76, Woodall Shoals, or Overflow Bridge or unless authorized under special use permit.

(b) Using or occupying within the scope of any commercial operation or business any area of the Sumter National Forest or the Chattahoochee National Forest abutting the Chattooga River for the purpose of entering or going upon the River in, on, or upon any floatable object or craft of every kind or description, unless authorized by special use permit.

(c) Violating or failing to comply with any of the terms or conditions of any permit authorizing the occupancy and use specified in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section is prohibited.

(d) Entering, going, riding, or floating upon any portion or segment of the Chattooga River within the boundaries of the Chattahoochee National Forest in, on, or upon any floatable object or craft of every kind or description, unless authorized by a permit obtained through registration at Forest Service Registration Stations abutting the Chattooga River located at Highway 28, Low-Water Bridge, Earl's Ford, Sandy Ford, Highway 76, Woodall Shoals, or Overflow Bridge or unless authorized under special use permit.

(e) Entering, going, riding, or floating within the scope of any commercial operation or business upon any portion or segment of the Chattooga River within the boundaries of the Chattahoochee National Forest in, on, or upon any floatable object or craft of every kind or description, unless authorized by special use permit.

(f) Violating or failing to comply with any of the terms or conditions of any permit authorizing the occupancy and use specified in paragraph (d) or (e) of this section is prohibited.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

In order to implement the regulations issued under authority of 36 CFR 261.70 (a) (7), the following terms and conditions of permit for use of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River was hereby established.

1. Each float party must register.
2. All floating is prohibited north of SC/GA Hwy. 28.
3. Air mattresses, motorized craft or other craft deemed unsuitable by the Forest Service are prohibited.
4. Rafts must have a minimum of two air chambers.
5. Each rafter, canoeist and kayaker above Earle Ford must have a life saving device available.
6. All persons using watercraft below Earle Ford must wear a life jacket rated "Coast Guard Approved."
7. Inner tubes are prohibited below Earle Ford.
8. A minimum party size of two persons and two craft is required below Earle Ford.
9. All persons using decked craft and all floaters below Woodall Shoals must wear a helmet.

*Donald W. Eng*  
DONALD W. ENG  
Forest Supervisor

*January 8, 1981*  
Date